

# Closing Down Your Garden For The Summer



GARDENS OF HOPE  
JOSEPH P. CORY FOUNDATION

# It's Hot Out There!

- Gardens should be planned and planted, keeping in mind the summer heat and droughts that present challenges.
- Returning back from a vacation, or just taking a summer break from a garden that has not been properly prepped, will ultimately create a lot of unnecessary time and expenses come Fall.
- Here are some tips to ensure success.



# End Of “Garden Season” Protocols: Zone 10



- Harvesting what you have growing at this time
- Pruning herbs and vegetables
- Extracting and saving your own seeds
- Planting herbs that will survive the summer
- Contact your resources for advice:
  - [Master Gardeners](#)
  - [Joseph P Cory Foundation](#)
  - [Local UF/IFAS Extension](#)



# Pruning

- **Cut back all herbs and vegetables**
  - **Avoid “going to seed” (Unless you keep and dry them)**
  - **Smaller plants need less water**
  - **They will get bushier and less leggy, with a good snip**



# Seeds: The Gift That Keeps On Giving

- **Remove and dry seeds from your plants.**
  - Seeds can be taken from a vast variety of fruits and vegetables
  - When plants “flower”, seeds can be harvested as well
- **If they grew well this year, they are successful choices for the future**
  - Dry on a paper towel, then place them in a bag
  - Make sure to label them
  - Store in a cool, dry place
  - Rub the bag to loosen dried seeds to plant



**Loofah Seeds**



# Get It Growing



# Plant Hardy & Drought Resistant Varieties

- Basil
- Dinosaur Kale
- Garlic and Bulb Onions
- Green Onions/Chives
- Lavender
- Pineapple
- Rosemary
- Sweet Potatoes
- Tarragon
- Okra



Sweet Potato Vine

# Sweet Potatoes

- Started from transplants called "slips" or "draws" (vines or sprouts that grow from a sweet potato).
- Starting your own sweet potato slips (May) is simple and a great classroom activity!
- Heat and drought tolerant
- Long growing season: 3-4 months (Summer break)
- Grow well in sandy soil and do not require much fertilizing







# Okra

- Well suited to hot and humid summers
- 50-65 days to harvest (2 months)
- When harvesting, wear gloves to protect yourself from the plant's prickly hairs



# Southern Pea (Cowpea, Field Pea, Black Eye Pea) *Vigna unguiculata*

- Very heat tolerant
- 60-70 days to harvest for fresh peas. For dry peas, add 2-3 weeks
- Relatively few pests and don't require much fertilizing.
- For fresh use, harvest when seeds have filled the green pods, but before seeds have hardened. For dried use, make sure to harvest dried pods before rain or else seeds will mold.



# Pineapples

**Grown successfully in Zone 10!**

- **Plant in full sun, avoid shade of structures**
- **12-36" from other trees**
- **Grasp the top of a ripe pineapple**
- **Twist off the leafy top**
- **Let the crown dry 1-2 days**
- **Sit crown in a jar of warm water, submerging leaf-free area**
- **Change water every few days**
- **When roots are 3" long, plant it crown down**

**Watch This Youtube!**

<https://empressofdirt.net/grow-pineapple-indoors/>



**Nada's Homegrown**

# Cover It!



GARDENS OF HOPE  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

# Mulch

- **Many different options**
  - **Choose natural**
    - Wood
    - Cypress
    - Pine straw
    - Spanish moss
- **Wildly available**
- **Suppresses weeds**
- **Builds soil quality**





# Ground Cover

- Easy to remove
- Can be used year after year
- A permeable fabric will not collect water.
- Staple to wood garden frames
- Card Board is GREAT to use. Ask your local supermarket or school cafeteria for boxes. Simply cut and layer over your garden beds. Secure to keep it in place.



# Tools and Supplies

- Clean and dry all your gardening tools prior to summer break
- Wrap sharp items for disposal
- Store seeds and left over materials in a safe place
- Storage space should be secure, clean and dry.



# Get Ready for Next Gardening Season...



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# Prepare Soil for the Fall

- Remove all weeds by hand or small tools
- Rake/Hoe to get the deeper roots
- Turn the dirt over to aerate the soil
- Add nutritious non-chemical components
  - mulch
  - compost
- Plant shady ground cover
  - Sweet Potatoes



**Note:** While soil solarization and covering the earth are other methods of preventing weeds and protecting the ground, it is not an approved method for school gardens.



Why try to explain miracles to your kids when you can just have them plant a garden. - Robert Breault



Please contact us at any time,  
we are here to ensure your success!



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