



The oldest community garden in Somerset – in our **14th year**

We're Happy You're Here!

Ways to connect with us and each other:

- Follow us on Facebook
- Be sure to submit your registration so that we have your current reach information
- Help us remove most of the growth that weighs down the fence
- Chat with and help your garden neighbors
- Share success tips

Off Season Improvements

- Removal of most of the growth that was weighing down the fence
- Re-paving of church entrance drive – PLEASE DRIVE SLOWLY WHILE ON CHURCH PROPERTY

A huge THANK YOU to all who help and continue to help!!

Volunteer - Help Out - Get Involved

- The Somerset Community Garden is managed 100% by volunteers
- No one is paid
- We have a lot of volunteers signed-up... later in the presentation
- We can always use more help

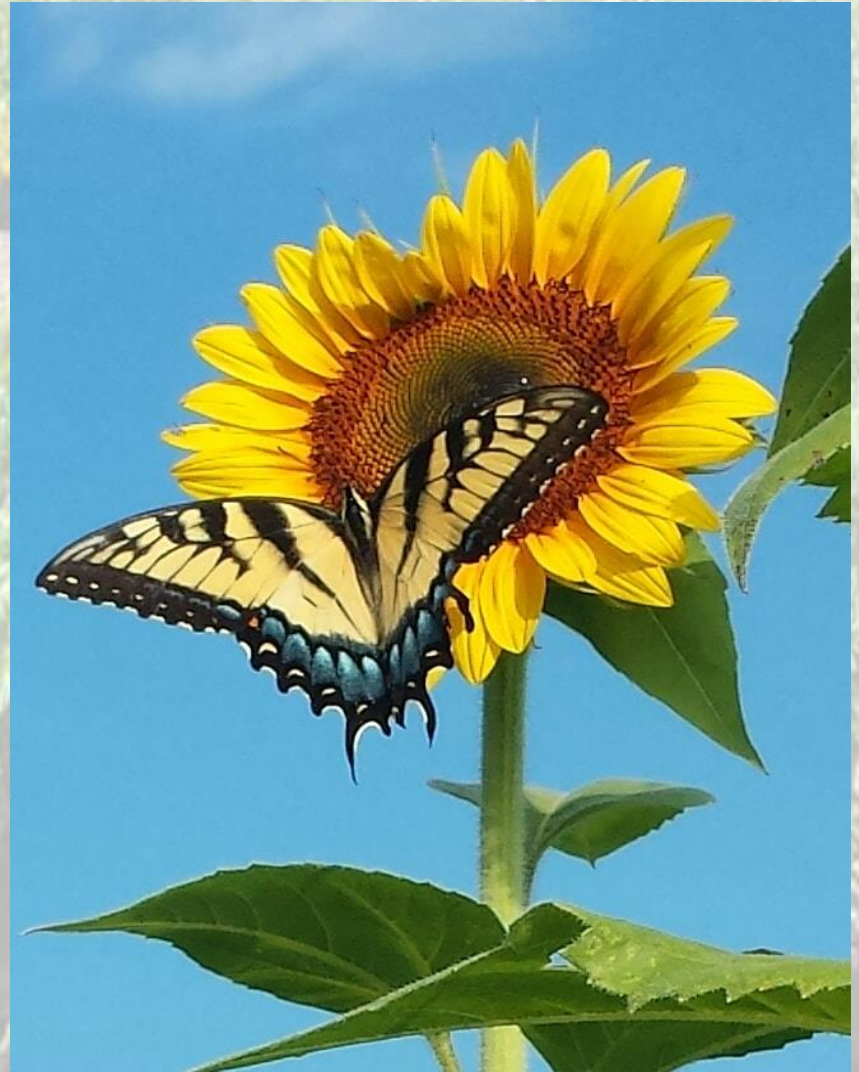
Garden Advertising Objective:

Increase gardening opportunity to more families and individuals

- 55+ community postings
- Banners
- Fliers
- Facebook Marketplace posting
- Facebook page
- Word of mouth

Expectations of Gardeners

- HAVE FUN!!
- DRIVE SLOWLY ON CHURCH PROPERTY
- BE SAFE
- BE KIND
- BE RESPECTFUL
- LEARN NEW THINGS
- MAKE NEW FRIENDS
- CARE FOR YOUR PLOT
- HELP OUT
- ADHERE TO THE GARDEN RULES (found in the Garden Covenant on website)



Hours and Season dates

- Dawn to Dusk
- First Saturday of May (May 6th) to October 31
- You must have something planted by June 1, or forfeit your plot
- **EVERYTHING** must be removed by October 31 – no exceptions!

Expected Work Day Volunteering

Saturday April 29th 9am-3pm

- Initial plot layout and placing boundary stakes and string
- Fence Repairs
- Limited-access section setup (high tables)
- Initial laying down wood chip paths, hoses, fence repair
- Maintaining the paths by pulling weeds (and during the season)
- Pull weeds along the fence (and during the season)

Composting

Compost pile material – please place all compost material in the compost bin

- Spoiled vegetables
- Weeds
- Dirt
- Anything organic

Do not bring materials from home and place in the compost pile

Dumpster is for Church Use Only

Limited-access Garden

- Currently five garden tables to accommodate wheelchair/walker access
- Tables will be set up as needed
- Tables will be lined with landscape fabric and filled with special soil for shallow planting
- Possibility that we may be able to accommodate longer-root veggies in the tables this year

Water

- No sprinklers
- Don't leave water running
- Don't change the head of the hose
- Be mindful and considerate
- Keep hoses stretched out in the paths to minimize damage to the supply pipe
- Handle with care, please

Fencing and Gates

- Keep gates closed **at all times**. Animals will come in!
- Each garden member must volunteer for a section of the border fence for weeding and eliminating vines from the fence
- Report any damage to the fence so it can be quickly repaired. Contact :
Maurice at mrosenstrauss@hotmail.com
- If you see an animal, let Theresa know (theresafarkas796@gmail.com) and we will attempt to trap and relocate it

Tools

- Shovels, pitchforks, rakes and wheelbarrows are available
- Please return them to the wood chip pile
- Do not lay them against the fence
- Return wheelbarrows upside down

Donations of tools are gladly accepted

Weeds/Soil Health

- Keep your plot and path free from weeds
- NO chemical pesticides
- Organic pesticides are OK
- Use organic fertilizers if possible, e.g. aged horse manure
- Agricultural lime is helpful, since the soil is acidic.
- Try to get to a 7-8 pH. Blood, fish and bone meal add nutrients. Mixing in peat moss enables moisture retention.
- Easy on the wood chips, as they contribute to soil acidity
- Well balanced mulch and organic compost works wonders
- Be a weeding buddy
- Schedule time to work with your buddy(s)

Prohibited Plants

- No strawberries
- No asparagus
- No ginger
- No sweet potatoes
- No perennials of any kind
- No sunflowers
- Containers are OK
- Be aware of invasive species and perennials
- Ask if unsure

Other Prohibited Items

- No buried material or plastic sheeting
- Landscape fabric is OK, but it must be disclosed and removed before garden closing
- No stone, concrete or brick paving material
- No buried wood or metal border material
- No hay bales, stained wood chips, or non-biodegradable garden material
- No large structures are to be constructed (wood, bamboo, metal, etc.)

Abandoned Plots

- If you decide to no longer participate in the garden please contact Theresa Farkas at:
theresafarkas796@gmail.com
- Plots must be cleaned-up at end of season, otherwise the gardener forfeits the right to return
- If plots become overrun with weeds, the gardener will be notified and if not remedied within 2 weeks, the plot will be reassigned to a wait listed gardener

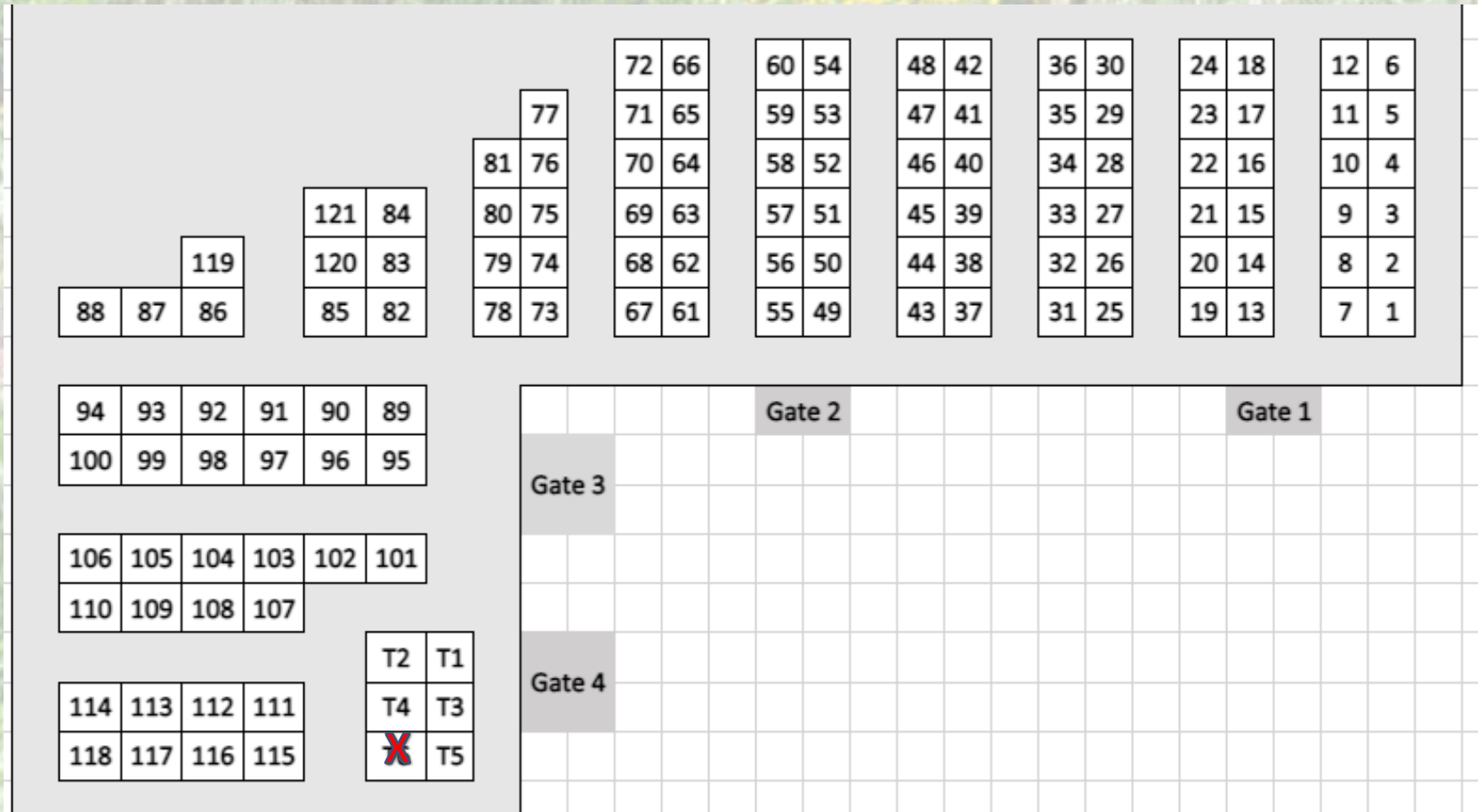
End of Season

- Remove ALL materials from your plot, including anything underneath the soil.
- Organic materials should be placed in the compost pile during and at end of season
- Inorganic materials - stakes, poles, tomato cages, totes and tools need to be removed from premises at end of season (not inside or outside of the fence or in the field behind garden)
- Dumpsters are for Church Use Only

Ongoing Critter Control and Fence Repair

- **Keep gates closed even if you are working in the garden or are continuously going in and out**
- If you see an animal in the garden try to identify how/where it got in
- Try to repair with fence patch and cable ties
- Place an object e.g. live trap, shovel, board over hole
- Let fence repair folks know (contact Maurice at mrosenstrauss@hotmail.com)

2023 Garden Plot Map





Additional Gardening Resources

- [All New Square Foot Gardening Book by Mel Bartholomew](#)
- <https://www.southernliving.com/garden/grumpy-gardener>
- <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/soil-testing-lab/how-to.php>
- <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/publication.php?pid=fs450>
- <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs678/>
- <http://www.sfgplanner.com/#home>
- <http://theselfsufficientliving.com/list-of-medicinal-plants-to-grow-in-your-garden/>
- <https://urbangardenersrepublic.com/seed-starting-14-worst-mistakes/>
- <https://urbangardenersrepublic.com/how-to-start-a-flower-garden-from-scratch/>



Make a Friend!
&
Have Fun!

Contact Theresa at
theresafarkas796@gmail.com
if you want your contact
information to be shared for
finding a watering or weeding
buddy

Connect With Us

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/SomersetCommunityGarden/>

Garden Website:

www.SomersetCommunityGarden.org

Church/Garden main telephone number:

732-873-2888

Garden Email address for general questions:

garden@htlsomerset.org

Local Supply Locations

- Lowes
- Home Depot
- Gaskos, 112 Federal Road, Monroe Twp. (cash only)
- Countryview Farm Nursery 599 Bucklew Ave. (RT 522 E), Monroe Twp.
- Barton Nursery, 949 New Durham Rd., Edison
- Daisy Garden Center and Sculpture, 183 US-206, Hillsborough Township, NJ 08844
- Ambleside Gardens and Nursery, 834 US-206, Hillsborough Township, NJ 08844
- Blooms at Belle Meade, 1980 US-206, Belle Mead, NJ 08502
- Schwarz Gardens, 4355 NJ-27, Princeton, NJ 08540
- Madden's Greenhouse and Nursery, 4312 NJ-27, Princeton, NJ 08540

Local Supply Locations (cont.)

- Baumley Nursery and Landscaping, 4339 NJ-27, Princeton, NJ 08540
- Amato's Garden Center and Nursery, 47 Deans Rhode Hall Rd, Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852
- Fama's Nursery and Landscaping, 1613 NJ-27, Somerset, NJ 08873
- Atlock Farm, 545 Weston Canal Rd, Somerset, New Jersey
- Coppola's Garden Center, 1600 New Durham Road, Plainfield

Somerset Community Garden Committee

- Garden Chair – Theresa Farkas theresafarkas796@gmail.com
- Website - Administrator – Tom Jennings tomj@optonline.net
- Facebook Administrator – Theresa Farkas theresafarkas796@gmail.com
- Garden Email Administrator – Maureen Haney garden@htlsomeset.org
- Plot Assignment – Kshitija (KJ) Joshi communitygarden20@gmail.com
- Orientation Workshop – Theresa Farkas theresafarkas796@gmail.com
- Fee Administer – Maureen Haney htlfinsec@aol.com
- Open/Close Garden – Theresa Farkas, John Haney, Joann Cummings, Kshitija (KJ) Joshi, et. al.
- Garden Maintenance – Vacant
- Church Financial Secretary – Maureen Haney htlfinsec@aol.com
- Church Technical Advisor – Tom Jennings tomj@optonline.net
- Garden “Police” – Joann Cummings joann.cummings06@gmail.com

Volunteers

- Orientation – Theresa Farkas
- Weed Management/Garden Police – volunteers needed
- Work Day (April 29th) – all gardeners
- Opening/Closing – all gardeners
- Fence Repair – volunteers needed
- Pest Management/Gate Signs – volunteers needed
- Soil Improvement – volunteer needed
- Kindly remind people to keep gates closed - everyone

Please be Generous - Donate

- Ongoing care and maintenance costs
- Fence repair
- Garden improvements costs
- Parking lot care and maintenance

Gardening is solace for the soul.

We are blessed to have the Somerset Community Garden, and grateful to all gardeners, Holy Trinity Church, and community donors who make it possible.