



NEWS TO GROW BY!

February 2022

2022 Registration

We have been registering gardeners since January 1st and have already confirmed more than 270 gardeners! Returning gardeners receive up to three reminders to register. We ask returning gardeners register by February 1st. If you gardened with us last year and have not yet registered, please do so immediately before your plot is reassigned. If you know you will not be returning to your plot, please let us know ASAP by sending an e-mail to info@projectgrowgardens.org.

We have been able to assign some new gardeners plots depending on the site, but more than 60 new gardener applications are still outstanding. If you are one of these applicants, we really appreciate your interest and patience. You will hear from us soon after we know exactly which plots will be open in 2022.

Here is hoping that 2022 will be another great gardening year for everyone!

2022 Plant Sale

The 2022 Project Grow Plant Sale will be held on May 7th, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm (note the reduced hours) at the hoophouse at Dawn Farm, 6633 Stoney Creek Rd., Ypsilanti, 48197. Project Grow's 2020 and 2021 sales were greatly modified because of the pandemic. Most of those changes will still be in effect in 2022.

What's the Same

Every year Project Grow offers hard to find heirloom tomatoes, peppers and basil. This year we are offering 80 varieties of tomatoes, 25 varieties of peppers, and 2 varieties of basil. In addition, we will be offering two ornamentals, lisianthus and sweet peas.

The peppers and basil will be started at the end of February and the tomatoes in mid-March. These are large, husky plants sold in 3.5" pots. We are growing them in our hoop house at Dawn Farm so they are already acclimated to cool temperatures, outdoor sunshine and spring breezes.

Tomatoes, peppers, and basil cannot tolerate freezing temperatures and must be brought inside or protected from late spring frost. Lisianthus and sweet peas are both cold hardy and should be planted out right away.

Advance Ordering

- This year we will charge a \$5 processing fee on each advance order. We do this because a significant amount of work is involved pulling orders. This fee is added automatically to your total.
- To make filling orders easier, orders must be in multiples of half a flat (9 plants). You can order 9, 18, 27, 36 etc. plants.
- Advance orders must be placed online directly from the [catalog](#).
- We will accept up to 100 advance orders, twice as many as in 2021. Once we reach 100 orders, we will close down that option so no more orders can be placed.
- Pick up your order on **Saturday May 7th between 10am and 12 noon at Dawn Farm** 6633 Stony Creek Road in Ypsilanti, 48197. This is the only day and time orders may be picked up. If you cannot pick up your order by noon, please do not place an advance order!

There is always the possibility of disasters and crop failures with plants, but we will try to keep the list up to date if this happens.

Free Seeds! Project Grow's 2022 SEED SHARE

Free vegetable and flower seeds will be available to friends and gardeners of Project Grow! The seeds were donated to Project Grow by member gardeners, [Downtown Home and Garden](#), and [Barnes Ace Hardware](#) on Washtenaw Avenue. Downtown Home and Garden is a source for all organic gardening needs in Ann Arbor and long-time supporter of our organization, and Barnes Ace regularly donates huge amounts of unsold seed packets to Project Grow. Many thanks to both!

An online order form will be emailed to gardeners on February 20. Please read the instructions carefully. As always, please only order seeds that you will actually plant this year, so that there is enough for everyone. We hope this effort will help you prepare for the months ahead.

Project Grow's 50th Anniversary

This year is Project Grow's 50th Anniversary and we are so excited to celebrate and preserve the legacy that Project Grow has built over the last 50 years! Read on to learn more about our plans for 2022!

Project Grow's History (excerpted from an article by Nelson Meade)

Fifty years ago, in 1972, Project Grow was created, the work of several determined residents of Ann Arbor, who envisioned gardening space for residents who wished to grow their own foods. Leading this group was Susan Drake (the first director of Project Grow), who met with city and county officials to get the space and funds with which to do so. Supportive officials, including Nelson Meade, then an Ann Arbor city council member and later a Washtenaw county commissioner, also worked to get it off the ground. While working for the creation of County Farm Park (which now bears his name), Meade also secured space for a Project Grow garden site there. That garden has flourished and is now Project Grow's largest and most popular site.

Over the succeeding decades, Project Grow has flourished, too, and now manages some 20 sites throughout the city to provide the space and skills for those who wish to garden. But it could not have been done without the support of organizations whose goals complement those of Project Grow: Leslie Science and Nature Center, Ann Arbor Public Schools, Ann Arbor City Parks, Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum, Food Gatherers, the Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living and various area churches and other landowners. Nor could it have been done without the help and support of the many generations of Ann Arborites who share the same vision as those early residents and who are now able to grow their own food. Project Grow Community Gardens is fortunate to be a part of this community.

For a more detailed history of Project Grow by Nelson Meade, including personal recollections of founding days, click [here](#).

** Anniversary Events & Volunteers

We will be celebrating throughout the year with seasonal events (Plant Sale, Tomato Tasting, Seed Swap, Opening Weekend, etc) as well as unique events created specifically for our anniversary! Events will be announced in upcoming newsletters, so stay tuned! If you have an idea that you'd like to put in the suggestion box or perhaps you'd like to help volunteer with this year's events, please email anniversary@projectgrowgardens.org with the subject line "Events and Volunteers":

** Legacy Video Series

As part of the 50th Anniversary celebration, we're featuring our past and present growers in a series of videos, telling the stories of those who have made our community what it is today! Whether you're a current gardener or haven't gardened with Project Grow since the 70s or 80s, we're inviting all gardeners to take part in answering the following three questions:

- **How / When did you join Project Grow?**
- **What are one or two of your fondest memories with Project Grow?**
- **What has inspired you the most about Project Grow in your time with us?**

If you'd like to be a part of the project, please send the following information with the subject "50th Anniversary Legacy" to anniversary@projectgrow.org with the subject line "Video Series":

- **Name**
- **Contact Information (email/phone)**
- **Your answers to each of the questions**

We look forward to hearing from you and will be in touch to schedule a short video interview.

Winter Classes Through Rec and Ed

Project Grow will be offering three more classes during the winter semester through Ann Arbor Rec and Ed. All the classes:

- Last 2 hours from 7pm-9pm
- Cost \$15
- Will be held online.
- Are for ages 18 and up.

Growing currants, gooseberries, and elderberries in the home landscape

Thursday February 3rd

Currants, gooseberries, and elderberries are handsome plants that produce delicious fruit that can be hard to find in the market. They are easier to grow than many other kinds of fruit, are small enough to fit into even small yards, and bear fruit at an early age. This short class will cover how to choose, grow, harvest, and use currants (red, black, and white), gooseberries, and elderberries here in southeastern Michigan. We will discuss which varieties to grow, and where, how and when to plant, fertilize, prune, propagate, control pests, and care for these plants. Instructor: Dave Strayer

[Register here!](#)

Month-By-Month Gardening in Michigan

Thursday February 23th

Increase the productivity of your garden by learning the best time to plant, cultivate, and harvest vegetable varieties that do well in Michigan. Vegetables belong to different plant families that have distinct growing cycles and seasons. Recognizing this helps develop plans for gardening that maximize yields by taking advantage of the optimal times for plant growth and development. Material for the class is based on research and the experiences of Extension Master Gardeners and the Smart Gardening program of Michigan State University Extension. Particular attention will be given to backyard and community gardening. Instructor: Joet Reoma

[Register here!](#)

Fundamentals of Successful Organic Gardening

Thursday March 3rd

Learn how to develop and maintain a healthy organic soil, the key to successful organic gardening. Understand the role that microorganisms play in building soil and promoting plant health. Discover how to employ composting, mulching and cover crops to build soil productivity, increase microbial activity and provide timely release of plant nutrients. Gain an understanding about what vegetable varieties work best in an organic garden and how to plant, cultivate, support and manage their harvest as well as the basic principles of integrated pest management. Instructor: Royer Held

[Register here!](#)

Project Grow Gardens Around Town

Left to right like text:

- Discovery Garden at Leslie Science and Nature Center
- Kale in January at Clague
- Winter trail at Matthaei
- Section B at County Farm
- Section A at County Farm



