



# DOWLING COMMUNITY GARDEN

APRIL 2006  
GARDENING NEWS AND VIEWS

## newsletter

### Spring Clean-up is SATURDAY, MAY 6

**10 AM-NOON** If your service commitment assignment is to help out at Spring and Fall Clean-up Day, please plan to attend. Come meet your gardening neighbors and help prepare the common garden areas for a new season. We will clean up debris, rake leaves, prepare school and raised bed garden plots, and complete other seasonal chores. Meet at the shed, rain or shine.

Bring garden tools (rakes, wheelbarrows, shovels, pruners), weed trimmers, lawn mowers, trash bags, garden gloves.

**WATER BARREL FILLING DEMONSTRATION** Have you signed up to fill water barrels this season? A demonstration will be given at 11 AM on Clean-up Day showing how to access water spigots, flush the system and fill barrels.

**GARDEN SWAP DAY** Recycle usable garden items by bringing them to the garden during Spring Clean-up hours, 10 AM-noon. Items not claimed must be removed from the garden. *Do not leave items next to the shed after clean-up is over, or at any other time of year.*

**FREE SEEDS AVAILABLE** Attend Spring Clean-up Day and select from vegetable and herb seeds donated by Minnesota State Horticultural Society's Minnesota Green program.

### Spring Planting Date: JUNE 4

Make sure your garden is planted by June 4. Unplanted plots will be assumed to be abandoned, and you may forfeit your plot if your garden is not planted in a timely manner.



### SERVICE ASSIGNMENTS

Your service commitment assignment and coordinator's name and contact information is enclosed in this newsletter. Please be responsible about completing your chosen tasks.

**REPORT YOUR SERVICE HOURS** Keep track of your service hours and report them within one week to your project coordinator. It is your responsibility to keep track of, and report, your service hours. All service hours *must* be completed and reported by November 15, 2006.



### SPRING GARDENING TIP

*Plant early!* Many plants can be planted from seed or set out as plants long before the last frost. Here are a few:

*Peas, radishes, kale, kohlrabi, spinach:* plant seeds as soon as the soil can be turned, early-mid April

*Parsnips, turnips, carrots:* plant seeds mid-late April

*Cabbage, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower:* set out plants mid April

*Onions:* plant sets mid-late April

*Lettuce, beets:* plant seeds late April

*Potatoes:* plant tubers late April-early May

### 2006 PRODUCE DONATION Program

by Marilyn Terhaar

*Dear Dowling Gardeners:* Spring is here and soon we will be planting our gardens. We are asking you to donate your extra vegetables to our Surplus Produce Program. It would be great if you could designate a plant or two in your garden to contribute to the Surplus Produce Program. Produce pick ups will occur mornings – Monday, Wednesday and Friday weekly, and 3rd Saturday of every month. The delivery schedule will be posted on the shed and on the web site. Coolers will be provided for your extra produce; look for them outside the shed.

The food shelves have been so very grateful to Dowling Garden for our contributions, and I have seen firsthand how this program benefits those who are in need of nutritious food. I thank you for your continued generosity and support and look forward to a bountiful summer.

#### PICK-UP SCHEDULE

Monday,  
Wednesday, Friday  
each week

•  
3rd Saturday  
each month

### HEIRLOOM PLANT SALE is May 13

Dowling Garden is holding a sale of open-pollinated/heirloom plants. This is an opportunity to grow vegetables that you will not find in the garden centers! We'll have over 60 kinds of tomatoes, many sweet and hot peppers, eggplants, salad greens and flowers. Come early for best selection; last year we sold out of many varieties in the first half hour.

Proceeds from the sale pay for Heirloom Festival in August, so come and support your garden! For a list of plants, email Susan (srdesign@visi.com) or visit the web site for a PDF.

*Where and When:* 3549 46th Avenue South, 11 AM – 2 PM

### More About HEIRLOOMS

**NEW HEIRLOOM DEMONSTRATION GARDEN** Heirloom plants and seed-saving will be the focus of a new garden to be installed near the bench/rock garden this spring. Stroll through and check out interesting varieties of vegetables and flowers.

We'll showcase different varieties of old-fashioned crops each season, and save seed. Dowling Garden is a member of Seed Savers Exchange and Seeds of Diversity, organizations saving and distributing seeds of heritage vegetables and flowers. Produce not used for seed-saving will be donated to food shelves.

**HEIRLOOM FESTIVAL 2006** Mark your calendars for August 19th! We'll present many new varieties of tomatoes for tasting, display interesting vegetables and give tours of the new demonstration garden, and offer organic gardening information. Our special focus this year is old-fashioned flowers.

Be a part of the festival by growing old-time vegetables and flowers in your garden (*see next page*). If you are growing special varieties that you'd like to display, or want to offer a few tomatoes for tasting, contact Susan, 612/724.4440.

**PLANT A MEMORY** Grandma's hollyhocks...those clove-scented pinks in your rock garden...sweet peas. As a gardener, you probably have fond memories of certain plants or flowers.

Why not plant a memory in part of your garden this year? The focus of this year's Heirloom Festival is old-fashioned flowers. We plan to fill in spaces in Dowling's public flower beds with old-fashioned and heirloom flowering plants, including native plants from this area. Our goal is to have flowers for the festival and collect seeds.

You can help. Plant some old-fashioned flowers; in addition to beautifying the garden, they may attract pollinators or butterflies to your plot. Learn how to save seed of your flowers, to share with other gardeners. If you have an old or unusual type of plant that you would consider contributing for the public gardens, leave a message on the Dowling voice-mail or web site email to the attention of Shelley, the public flower garden coordinator.

### **Free FERTILIZERS**

Compost will be available again this spring; look for the pile on the edge of the woods, and be prepared to get yours quickly; last season the pile was quickly exhausted! Please keep the area tidy, as the school needs to mow in this area.

Aged horse manure will also be available in the woods on a periodic basis, thanks to Dowling gardener Steve Dosch.

### **SUGGESTIONS to Avoid Violation Letters**

Weeds are a major complaint of neighbors, and the leading cause of plot forfeiture. Most common reasons why gardeners get cited during plot inspections: tall grass and weeds in garden and along plot edges, trees growing in plots, and unmaintained pathways next to garden. It's easier to remove weeds when they're small, before they are established in your garden.

**DATES FOR WEED INSPECTIONS** Gardens will be inspected for weeds and other violations at these times; be prepared and avoid a citation: June 24-July 2, July 29-August 6 and September 2-9.

**NO PESTICIDES/HERBICIDES** are allowed in the garden, to comply with Minnesota state law and our insurance policy.

**REVIEW THE RULES** for a full list of requirements.

## **GARDENING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Dowling Heirloom Plant Sale** Saturday May 13, 11am-2pm at 3549 46th Avenue South. Tomatoes, vegetables, flowers; proceeds support Heirloom Festival on August 19.

**"Cans for Sam" Plant Sale** Saturday May 20, 8am-2pm at 3608 38th Avenue South. Proceeds support care, services for abandoned animals.

**Free Workshop on Rain Gardens** Wednesday, April 19, 6:30-8:30pm at the 3rd Precinct. Advance registration preferred but not required. Contact Hillary at 722-4529 or hillary@longfellow.org.

**Friends School Plant Sale** May 12, 11am-8pm; May 13, 9am-8pm; May 14, noon-4 pm. Catalog at [www.fsmn.org](http://www.fsmn.org) State Fair Grounds, Grandstand building, St. Paul.

**Longfellow Garden Club Plant Swap** Wednesday, May 10, 7pm, Epworth United Methodist Church (3207 37th Avenue South). Bring perennials and extra flower or vegetable seedlings to share with other gardeners.

**Midtown Farmers' Market** May 6-July 8, open Saturdays 8am-1pm; July 11-October 24, open Saturdays 8am-1pm and Tuesdays 3:30-7:30pm.

**Manure** Dowling gardener Steve Dosch will deliver manure to a spot near your garden. Contact him directly to discuss quantity and cost, 612/729-1865.

### **MINNEHAHA FALLS NURSERY**

offers a 10% discount on plants. Identify yourself as a Dowling Gardener at time of purchase.

### **MOTHER EARTH GARDENS**

offers a one-time 10% discount on plants with this coupon. Good for 2006.

*Please support our local Garden Centers!*

**GO TO [WWW.DOWLINGCOMMUNITYGARDENING.ORG](http://WWW.DOWLINGCOMMUNITYGARDENING.ORG) FOR SEED-STARTING INFORMATION, GARDENING TIPS, RECIPES AND WEBSITE LINKS!**

### **Dowling Community Garden**

PO Box 6757  
Minneapolis, MN 55406  
651/255-6607

**YOUR SERVICE ASSIGNMENT  
IS INSIDE!**

*Return Service Requested*