

COASTAL DEMONSTRATION GARDEN 2008 CLASS PROJECT

Diana Pinto, Coordinator

Each year the current Master Gardener class is responsible for planning, planting and maintaining the Coastal Demonstration Garden located at the Lincoln County Fairgrounds. These gardens are a showcase and educational area for visitors interested in learning about coastal gardening, as well as a place for you to demonstrate your gardening abilities. Everyone is required to participate.

With the assistance of garden advisors, teams of Master Gardeners will be assigned to work together. Each team will be asked to designate a “leader” for easier communication, and to ensure that tasks are completed in a timely manner. Teams are responsible for developing a plan, preparing and planting and maintaining the bed or area. Teams are also responsible for a written educational handout about their project to be distributed at the Fair. Different teams may work together in watering, weeding and maintaining a bed or area, but the overall responsibility for it belongs to the MGs assigned to that bed. Participation in the assigned bed or area will count toward community service pay back hours. This is a fun and enjoyable experience. You will get to know your fellow students and veteran master gardeners.

The Coastal Demonstration Garden provides ongoing educational gardening demonstrations throughout the growing season. Each bed or area illustrates a gardening theme or idea such as the use of cloches, edible landscaping, herbs, perennials, annuals, the use of windscreens or some other technique with an informative focus. The beds or areas must be planted so that they are at their peak during the Lincoln County Fair, July 17 – 20. Your garden bed or area must be cared for **through the end of September**. During October, the garden will be prepared for winter.

Funds up to \$50.00 are available per bed for the purchase of seeds, plants, soil amendments, fertilizer, etc. You will be reimbursed by the LCMGA Treasurer for your expenditures when submitting your receipts and reimbursement form.

COASTAL DEMONSTRATION GARDEN PLANNING CALENDAR

January – February:

- Meet with team members. Select team leader. Inform Diana Pinto.
- Start planning NOW!
- Select theme; plan design, which should illustrate a garden idea, and should be educational.
- Plan informational handout and signage.
- Think about growing conditions: wet, windy, dry; drainage in raised beds.
- Share seeds and plant starts.

March – April:

- Turn over cover crop. Weed bed.
- Start seeds.
- Submit theme, and initial formative bed plans to Diana Pinto, by **March 11th**.
- Participate in Coastal Demonstration Garden work party clean-up.
Date: TBA

April – May:

- Submit final theme, bed plans, and educational handout and signage drafts for approval to Diana Pinto by **April 18**.
- Prepare bed for planting. Depending upon weather or plants, plant but watch and protect tender plants from late frost.
- Plan work schedule for team for care of bed or area for entire season.

May—June:

- Plant, weed, fertilize, water.
- Edge grass surrounding raised beds.

July: (Lincoln County Fair and Rodeo July 17 – 20)

- Submit completed informational handout and bed or area signage to Diana Pinto by **July 2**.
- Participate in work party clean-up date prior to fair opening. Date: TBA
- Sign-up to staff Coastal Demonstration Garden during fair.
- Place individual plant tags just prior to fair opening.

- Place valuable garden ornaments (optional) a few days prior to fair.

July, August, September:

- Continue to maintain garden bed or area until end of September.

October:

- Participate in winterizing work party. Dead plants will be removed, the soil amended, and a winter cover crop planted.
- Clean out assigned bed or area.
- If a cloche is used, it must be winterized.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Bed or area design/plan:

- All initial plans will be reviewed before final approval is granted; submit by **March 11**.
- Submit final theme and bed plans, and educational handout and signage drafts, for approval to Diana Pinto by **April 18**. Review will be conducted by the Coastal Garden Demonstration Coordinator (Diana Pinto), a member of the garden committee, and a member of the LCMGA Board.
- Bed design/plan should be an educational experience for gardeners based on their common gardening interests.

Handouts:

- Educational information geared to general public, 7th grade reading level. Limited to one sheet of two-sided regular size paper. Printed by OSU Extension Office. Original to be given to Diana Pinto for approval by **July 2**.
- Should be informative, visually interesting. Examples will be distributed during class.
- Information can include a list of all plants, growing height, width, perennial, annual, biennial, shrub, etc.
- Will be reviewed before final approval is granted by the Coastal Garden Demonstration Coordinator (Diana Pinto), a member of the garden committee, and a member of the LCMGA board.

Bed Signage:

- Landscape format, 8 ½ x 11. Can be in color on colored paper. Laminated to protect from weather by OSU Extension Office. Original copies to be given to Diana Pinto by **July 2** for final check.
- Examples will be available during class.
- Will be reviewed before final approval is granted by the Coastal Garden Demonstration Coordinator (Diana Pinto), a member of the garden committee, and a member of the LCMGA board.

Plants:

- Should be appropriate to coastal environment.
- Teams are encouraged to use propagation techniques to start their bed or area. Greenhouses are available at the fairgrounds for teams to use for this purpose.
- Please no noxious weeds: English ivy, scotch broom, etc.
- Mints or plants that spread by underground roots or stolons: place in garden pot and counter-sink in soil.
- ID all plants in your bed. Save nursery plant tags for valuable culture info, genus and species.
- Place ID tags a few days prior to fair dates.
- Pots: take them home or stack them neatly in the old greenhouse.

Reimbursement:

- Keep receipts and submit reimbursement form to LCMGA Treasurer, Anne Irving. You will receive up to \$50.00.
- Only one member of team, usually team leader, should submit receipts and form for reimbursement.
- If you paid for the plants and were not reimbursed, they are yours to take from the garden at the end of September.
- If you were reimbursed, the plants are property of LCMGA. The plants are saved, propagated when possible, sold at the next Spring Plant Sale or used in permanent beds.
- All garden ornaments, birdbaths, feeders, etc. are not reimbursed. Only plants, soil amendments, fertilizers, etc. are reimbursed.

Pay back hours:

- Time spent on this garden project count toward completion of your community service hour commitment.
- Keep track of your hours. They will add up quickly.

Team Leader for each bed or area:

- Coordinates planting, watering, maintenance schedules with team members.
- Communicates with garden advisors, garden coordinator and keeps them informed of progress, problems, questions, etc.
- Relays bed/area design, draft and final educational handout, and bed signage to Diana Pinto and others for approval.

Fair staffing and scheduling:

- Student Master Gardeners and veterans are expected to staff the Coastal Demonstration Garden during the fair to answer gardening question from visitors.
- Signup sheets will be available at the OSU Extension Office during June.

Garden Advisors:

- Veteran MGs who are available to teams for advice, consultation and hands-on site guidance
- Cathy Fitzhugh
- Claudette Schroeder
- Jackie and Phil Simonski (will be available in March).
- Carol Conway
- Emilia Lacy
- Diana Pinto-Coordinator

2/14/08