



BE THE INSPIRATION
2018-2019

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Jan 10th
Matt Foster
Team Rubicon

Jan 17th
Rutledge, Jamie, Johnny & Randy
Plano Pioneers Forum

Jan 24th
M'Lou Hytinen
Heritage Farmstead Museum
Update

"HAPPY NEWYEAR"



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Little, Pamela	Jan 04
Via, Jo	Jan 05
McWhorter, David	Jan 15
Aris, Jerry	Jan 17
Brodhead, John	Jan 20
Hernandez, Paul	Jan 25



WINTER Weekly

Volume 264, Issue 329, January 10th, 2019

Reader

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

Gardening in Plano, an Illustrated Guide

Carolyn Moebius chaired our last meeting of 2018. **John Priest** lead us in the invocation and **Hubert Aaron** lead us in the **Pledge**. Our greeter was new member **Janelle Twyford-Silvis**. **MARIA MOIT** was our **SARGENT AT ARMS**.

Mary Jo Dean had her *Two minutes of fame*. She first joined Rotary in 1995 because she wanted to be involved in a service organization. Her favorite musician is Michael Buble' and she wants to visit **IRELAND**. No one knows that she took *piano for 9 years!* We saw no **TATTOOS**.

We recognized 4 members for their years o service: **Francis Cartwright** = 1, **Sara Akers** = 6, **Ray Huffines** = 33! and **Mark Geller** = 43!!

Janelle spoke about the *Angel Tree*. Tonight, Dec 13, will be present wrapping; **Santa Claus** will visit BTH Bank on December 15.

Rick Horne spoke about the **FOOD DRIVE**. He'll buy the food but we need more funds and help delivering the food Saturday to the Plano Food Pantry. (**Francis Cartwright** helped **Rick** deliver the food.)

Rutledge Haggard announced that **Nancy Humphrey** would be the new **Executive Director** of the **Hendrick Scholarship Foundation**. Nancy has been working with Hendrick for many years.

FOR THE PROGRAM, **John Caldwell** spoke about his love of gardening. John has been gardening in Plano for over 25 years. In 2016, his harvest was 921 pounds of *Roma tomatoes*, *red bell peppers*, *eggplant*, *cucumbers* and *melons*. There are several steps to having a large, successful garden.



1. Prepare the soil

Most of the soil in Plano is **black clay**, which needs to be loosened with compost. You can buy Texas Pure compost from Plano or you can drive around in the fall and collect the brown bags of leaves that people leave (*pun*) out for collection. They'll make excellent compost by the spring. Just be careful that you don't get carried away!

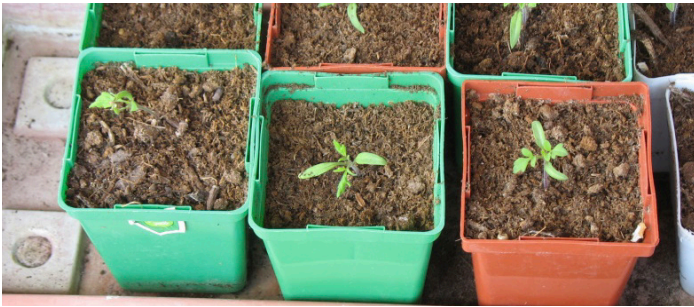


2. Start seeds in December

John saves the seeds from his best vegetables and starts them indoors. He uses a grow mat to heat the large pots and 'daylight' (6500K) florescent lights. Sometimes he has large, oval areas that get no light. *How can that be?*

3. Transplant the young plants

After the seedlings grow their second set of leaves, you can put them into individual pots.



Although it's now January, there will be sunny days above **45 degrees**. Then you can put the plants outside for direct sun. Only put them out for *1 hour the 1st day and 2 hours the 2nd day*.

TOO MUCH SUN WILL KILL THEM!



TOMATOES GONE WILD! (early March, ready for planting)

4. Decide on the type of garden

There are 2 types of gardens, raised bed and inground. A raised bed is easier; you just need 2" x 8" lumber and many bags of soil. Successful in-ground gardens need a rototiller to blend the compost with the original, black clay. For both gardens, remember to raise any sprinkler heads to ground level for better water distribution.



The black landscape cloth minimizes weeds and evaporation. The grey PVC stakes last longer than wood and don't attract termites. A 3' x 5' compost bin is in the upper left.



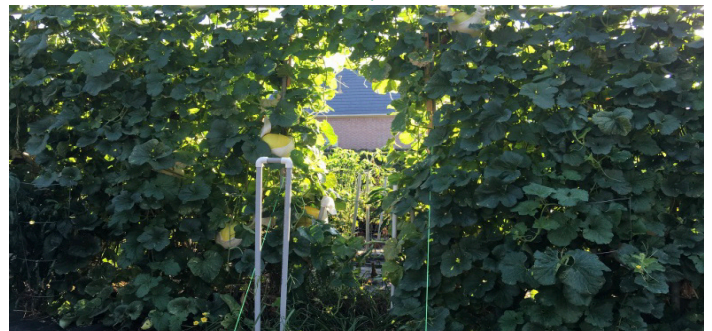
5. Put plants in the garden

The last killing frost is about **March 12**, so plant about **March 26**. Alternate rows of **tomatoes**, **peppers** and **eggplant**. If you plant all your **tomatoes** together, you can lose the entire crop if a fungus spreads from an infected plant. Fungus that attacks **tomatoes** will not affect **peppers** or **eggplant**.

6. Harvest the vegetables!!

Pick **tomatoes** when they are **pink** and put them in a grocery bag with $\frac{3}{4}$ **pink tomatoes** and $\frac{1}{4}$ **red tomatoes**. They'll ripen in the bag, without being pecked by birds. Grow **melons** and **cucumbers** up a PV and wire fence. Bugs that live on the ground can't eat them and the leaves get sunlight all day. You can also find the green cucumbers easier when they are in the air.

USE COTTON HAMMOCKS TO SUPPORT THE MELONS.





A 15 POUND GOLDEN PERFECTION MELON.
(Like a yellow honeydew)

Keep a log showing your harvest by day. The first killing frost is about **November 20**, so be alert to any freeze warnings. **BEFORE THE 1ST FREEZE, GO OUT AND HARVEST EVERYTHING!**

2016's year-end harvest: **102 pounds of bell peppers, eggplant and tomatoes.**

Much of the eggplant went to **Café Momentum**; they were catering a **Lebanese wedding** in 2 days. (Eggplants = **baba ganache**) Many of the Café staff



members were recently released from juvenile detention for non-violent crimes. They have a paid, one year internship at the Café and then are placed in other restaurants. They now have a skill and a legal income. Their return-to-jail rate is greatly reduced.

I would be happy to help any **Rotary members** with their 2019 gardens. I should have **tomato** and **pepper** seedlings to give away.



Parents, teachers, and gardeners are always optimistic.



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Thank you Kenny Wilson

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None

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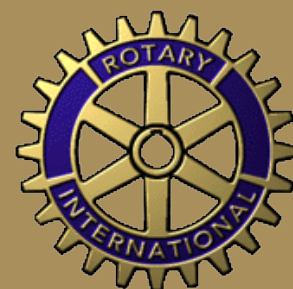
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a serving heart



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*Merry Christmas
From Plano Rotary*

