



EECO Farm

EAST END COMMUNITY ORGANIC FARM

EECO Farm – MARCH 2020 Newsletter for Gardeners

“The cock is crowing,
The stream is flowing,
The small birds twitter,
The lake doth glitter,
The green field sleeps in the sun; ...”

“Written in March” – William Wordsworth (1770-1850)

In our first newsletter of the 2020 growing season, the EECO Farm Board of Directors happily welcomes back all our gardeners (and many new ones too!) and wish all of them success in their gardening efforts. Once again, the gardens are all rented --- and we have a waiting list. So, if you have a garden and change your mind, or if circumstances prevent you from being at EECO Farm, then please tell us immediately so someone else from that list can take over your garden.



By the time many of you get around to reading this newsletter it will be officially Spring, which will arrive at EECO Farm on Thursday, March 19th at 11:49 pm. Now if this seems awfully soon to you, you’re right! In fact, despite your fond childhood memories of early tulips and crocus blooming there is no one alive who remembers the Spring

equinox arriving earlier than it does this year as the last time it happened this soon was way back 1896 --- 124 years ago. We can thank that mere extra eleven minutes before midnight that prevented winter from gaining an extra day on us --- and the fact that 2020 is a leap year --- for this phenomenon occurring in our lifetimes.

It should also be noted that according to the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) this is the warmest winter nationwide since 1895 and local records claim it is the 4th least amount of winter snowfall recorded on the East End since the measurements started to be kept.

This mild winter weather has another plus side in that many of our gardeners like to plant cold hardy crops now --- such as the appropriately named snow peas and all spinach varieties, kale and Swiss chard (yes, there's a difference between them), most types of lettuce, green onions (scallions) and the ever faithful go-to radishes because you can harvest their greens without waiting for the bulb to fully develop.

However, if you don't want to plant such early crops doesn't mean there is nothing at all for you to do until June! This is the perfect time to clean up your garden if you didn't properly do so when shutting it down last fall. Our compost pile is waiting to be used.

Thanks to the winter wind, even the tidiest gardeners will probably find detritus blown



onto their patch that needs removal. In order to assist you in your efforts we will be reopening the tool shed and putting out the wheelbarrows by the Ides of March, a/k/a the 15th. And, yes, most importantly the portable rest rooms are now available for use.

NOTE: The water lines to the gardens will *not* be opened at EECO Farm until next month, most likely April 1st or so, depending on the last-minute weather. However, the water

hydrant by the tool shed is still open --- but, this time of year, few plants need help with staying wet.

As soon as the soil gets crumply in your hand, you can put in your hardy herb seeds such as coriander, dill, thyme, chives and parsley, among others.

SPECIAL NOTE: *The EECO Farm front gate is back on automatic!*

Lastly, the Full Moon Pot Luck Dinners have yet to be scheduled so please remember to check next month's newsletter to save those dates.

Happy Gardening!

YOU MAY PAY YOUR EECO FARM RENT ONLINE WITH YOUR CREDIT CARD --- NO NEED TO WRITE CHECKS --- AND SAVE POSTAGE TOO! JUST GO TO OUR SECURE WEBSITE:

WWW.EECOFARM.ORG