

June 2021



NEWSLETTER

The Central Peninsula Garden Club

Greetings Central Peninsula Gardeners.

The 1st of June and I don't know about you, but I am ready to get some transplants and more seeds in the garden.

As a reminder, there are no garden club meetings through the summer and our next get together will be on Sep 14, 2021, 7 PM, at our new location, College Heights Baptist Church located at 44440 Kalifornsky Beach Rd, Soldotna, AK. College Heights is 1/3 of a mile down K-Beach from Peninsula Grace back toward Soldotna, right across the street from the door and window company. We look forward to everyone getting back together for our meetings and to talk gardening. It's always nice to hear how everyone's garden and greenhouse did over our short growing season and your tricks of the trade for a successful garden be it flowers or vegetable produce.

And don't forget we would love to print your gardening stories, pictures, and recipes in our newsletter. You can email your stories, pictures, & recipes to me at CPGCNewsletter@gmail.com Larry Opperman, Newsletter Editor

CPGC Board of Directors

Cleta Elefritz – President

Terrell Brewer - Treasurer

Cathy Haas - Director

Mitzie Long – Vice President

Cindy Roque - Secretary

Dirk Tanner- Director

David Rigall – Director

Charlene McLean - Director

Larry Opperman – Director

Rebecca Notmeyer – Director

Beverly Romanin - director

Though I do not believe that a plant will spring up where no seed has been, I have great faith in a seed. Convince me that you have a seed there, and I am prepared to expect wonders.

CENTRAL PENINSULA



GARDEN CLUB

Annual Plant Sale

**GET A HEADSTART
ON YOUR PLANTING**

**VEGETABLE STARTS,
FLOWERS, TREES,
BUSHES ALL READY
TO TRANSPLANT**

**JUNE 12, 2021 AT PENINSULA GRACE CHURCH
44175 K-BEACH ROAD SOLDOTNA AK**

**STARTS AT 10 AM UNTIL PLANTS ARE SOLD OUT
BE EARLY AS THEY GO FAST**

Plant Donation Drop Off Schedule at Peninsula Grace Church

June 11, Friday Evening from 6 - 7 PM

June 12, Sat Morning from 8 - 9 AM

Thank you to those donating plants and your help will ensure another successful plant sale. Contact Cathy Haas at 262-7248 with questions.

Garden Tours

We have a tentative schedule for garden tours and more information will be forthcoming soon.

Remember! You must be a paid-up club member to participate in garden tours.

June 24: Thursday 6 PM Brandy Nelson

July 5: Monday 6 PM Dirk Tanner

July 22: Thursday 6 PM Richard & Ludy Link

July 27: Tuesday 6PM Larry Opperman

August 18: Wednesday 6PM Eliza Eller- Ionia

August 21: Friday 2 PM Clea Elefritz

More tours are expected into Aug & Sep but have not been scheduled as yet. Stand by for updated schedules and be sure to check our website and Facebook page for posted information.

An email will soon be sent to all members on how to sign up for the garden tours.

CPGC MINI-GRANTS PROMOTE LOCAL AGRICULTURE!!!

The Central Peninsula Garden Club Mini-Grant Committee is now accepting applications for mini-grant projects in 2022.

[Grant Applications are currently being accepted for 2022](#)

Grants are set up to support other organizations' efforts that directly promote local agriculture. The mini-grant request form may be found on the CPGC website.

Please e-mail Terrell Brewer at ltbrewer2@yahoo.com for more info.



Soil is the foundation for all life on Earth. Under your feet is a symbiotic network made of thousands of species that create the biodiverse ecosystem that we rely on to produce vegetation. Pick up a handful of soil from the garden. You'll find insects and earthworms that are visible to the human eye. What you cannot see is each vital species of microorganisms, fungi, and algae. All together they bring the soil to life. As you learn the functionality of your soil contents, you'll start to hear the term "dirt" as a curse word. Dirt is the lifeless version of soil.

We first need to nurture our soil that will in turn nurture our plants, providing us with an abundant harvest! To grow healthy food, the soil must be teeming with life. These tips will show you the easiest way to get there.

Let's get started!



Soil Test



Think of a soil test as a 'garden playbook'. You wouldn't go into a big meeting or a game as a coach without a playbook, we can translate that same scenario into the garden. Why are my plants not growing to the size I expected? Why is my garden full of pests? Why can I not get a hold of these weeds? All of these questions, and more, have plagued us at one time or another. Getting your soil tested will help you create an offensive position to not only prevent these problems but to help manage them if they are to occur. The best advice would be to contact your local extension office to obtain a soil sample

kit. After collecting your soil, you will send it off for testing.

You do have the option to perform your own soil test at home but you will gain a small glimpse into the bigger picture. Start your season on the right foot by getting a full breakdown! Another resource available if you are unable to reach your local extension office is the [regional soil testing lab](#). Home tests will tell you your soil's acidity (pH) levels, while a full test will list the nutrients, organic matter, and fertilizer recommendations for your area. Some varieties require higher pH (tomatoes) and some a lower acidity (potatoes). Add vinegar, diluted sulfur, or peat moss to add acidity to the soil or compost or limestone to lower the pH. Compost is often the answer to acidity level issues. Compost has the perfect level pH to provide a baseline for any garden. When in doubt, add compost.

Four Elements Of Healthy Soil

1. Minerals



Minerals are weathered rocks broken down by nature over time. These inorganic soil particles are put into categories by size; sand (large particles), silt (medium particles), and clay (small particles). The ratio of these will determine your soil's drainage, texture, and water retention capacity. Different varieties of plants require different soil textures. For example, carrots love growing in loose, sandy soil to grow long, straight roots. To plan each garden bed's texture, consider the root structure of the varieties you want to plant and amend each bed accordingly.

2. Organic Matter



Organic matter, delicately put, is made of things that were once alive. Plants, insects, animals, and microorganisms all decompose eventually to create nutrient-rich humus. Humus makes nutrients accessible to the plants in your garden. Nutrients like nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium all break down in the decomposition process to become available for your plants. Micronutrients such as manganese and zinc can also be provided by compost.

3. Water + Air



Soil texture and compaction are both closely linked with the soil's access to hydration and aeration. If your soil contains high levels of clay, it will be difficult for the roots of your plants to grow. Roots do more than anchor your plant to the ground. Roots create tunnels in the soil which provide access to air and water which both assist in their ability to uptake nutrients simultaneously. To provide an ideal growth environment, designate walking paths in-between garden beds, use hand tools instead of tilling, and add compost to the soil.

Reprinted from MIGardener

4. Protect Precious Topsoil



The first few inches of topsoil in the garden often contain the most nutrients. Topsoil is the mineral layer containing phosphorus, magnesium, calcium, and many more vital ingredients that promote plant growth. These nutrients are easily depleted by contact with the elements. To protect topsoil from wind, sun, and water damage, add a layer of mulch around your plants. Be sure to avoid using any material that might be treated with harsh chemicals. As the mulch decomposed, it will add an extra dose of nutrients to the soil. Mulch will also minimize the time you spend weeding in the garden!



Glazed Salmon & Potatoes

Marti Opperman

Salmon fillet (Your choice, but we like reds or kings the best)
10-12 small potatoes cut in half
2 Tbsp brown sugar
2 Tbsp paprika
¼ Tsp cayenne powder (or more if you like hotter)
¼ Tsp salt
¼ Tsp pepper
Dill weed (fresh or dried)
2 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil

Parboil or microwave potato halves until they are almost done and a knife inserts fairly easily. Toss in a bowl with the olive oil and dill to your taste and sprinkle with salt & pepper to taste. Place the potatoes in an iron skillet or baking sheet flat side down. We use parchment paper if using a baking sheet, but think this recipe is better in an iron skillet. It sort of depends on the size of your fillet too.

Lay the salmon fillet on top of the potatoes coat with the mix of the brown sugar, paprika, cayenne, salt, & pepper. Pile it on high and if you have a very large fillet, just increase the amount of mix to spread on top.

Bake in a 400 degree pre-heated oven for approximately 15-20 minutes. A good rule of thumb for salmon is 10 minutes cooking time for every inch thickness of fish. And everyone knows the flake test for cooking fish.

As the fish cooks, the dry spread on top will begin to melt and form a tasty glaze on the fish and some will roll onto the potatoes underneath. The potato bottoms will get a little crunch on them.

You can alter this recipe in many ways such as using a little garlic in the rub, oregano or tarragon on the potatoes instead of dill, potato slices instead of half potatoes, more brown sugar than paprika, or anything else that pops into your mind to try.

