

# SPRING NEWSLETTER

Growing Green!

April-June 2025 Vol. 8, Issue 3



"IT SEEMS VERY SAFE TO ME TO BE SURROUNDED BY BREEN BROWING THINGS AND WATER." – BARBARA KINGSOLVER



Photo by Freepik

#### Let the Growing Begin!

We presently have 55 people in our garden community, and 13 are new members in 2025. The garden consists of 91 plots and 55 have been rented and all 5 raised beds are rented. Twenty of our members have more than one plot. There is still plenty of room for more gardeners, so if you or someone you know is interested in gardening with us, get your <u>plot application here</u>!



Please consider using your talents to help East Snyder Community Garden serve our community. If you or your organization would like to learn more about volunteering, click here.

# **Garden News**

### Notes from the Garden Manager, Roy Swazey

1. We have a good supply of newspaper in the shed. A healthy layer of newspaper with a hefty helping of mulch helps suppress weeds, helps retain moisture and, as it decomposes, enriches your soil. Help yourself.

2. If you do not yet have a bucket with holes in the bottom at your plot, ask me. Place your bucket in the corner of your plot and put any rocks you don't want in your plot into the bucket. When the bucket gets full, bring it to the small garden shed. DO NOT put rocks in the grass or near the edge of your plot where they can get mowed.

3. With volunteers, I will be working on getting the hoses out. We try to place hoses so everyone has easy access. The hoses are used by many. Be courteous.

4. When the water is turned on at the garden for the season, please make sure that you turn off the hose at the valve and at the hydrant both. If you leave the valve open, and push down the hydrant handle, your hose will fill with water when someone else turns on the water at the hydrant. That leads to burst hoses. REMEMBER- valve AND hydrant handle.

5. The garden is always in need of

maintenance. Gardeners are needed to help with this maintenance This is grass growing time. There are push mowers in the shed. If you need a lesson, ask.



**Flower Donations** 

photo by Arden Miller

Did you know that East Snyder Community Garden donates cut flowers to Brookdale Grayson View and The Manor at Penn Village? Those cut flowers are arranged by people living at the residences and enjoyed by many. When you plan your garden, consider planting flowers that work well for cutting. Be sure to tell us which flowers can be cut for donation. We would love for you to participate in the cutting and donation. It is great fun to explore the garden cutting flowers. The warm welcome when the flowers are donated is rewarding.

Please consider helping with this project. Call 570-374-5369 if you can help.



#### Help Needed along the Garden Fence

The flowers growing along the road side of the garden fence line have been enjoyed by many driving past the garden. We could use help keeping that area planted and weeded. Please consider helping to keep this area beautiful. Talk to the garden manager if you can help.

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photo by Lori Lupolt

## Seed Exchange 2025





photo by Dan Ressler

Wow, every year we are impressed with the number of people who attend the seed exchange. Many attending brought seeds to share. Saving seeds is a crucial part of sustainable agriculture. ESCG was fortunate to have donated seeds from the following companies:

Rohrer Seed Company, Johnny's Selected Seeds, Seed Saver's Exchange through their Herman's Garden program, High Mowing Seeds, Territorial Seed Company, Burpee's, and Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds. There are many on-line resources to help you learn how to save seeds from this year's crops as a starter for next years bounty. A few suggested resources are: <u>Seed Savers Exchange seed saving guides</u>, <u>Redwood Seeds Seed Saving</u>, and <u>University of Minnesota seed saving guide</u>.

## Making Compost Work for You Saturday, April 26, 2025 10 AM Selinsgrove Borough Building Community Room

Learn about why composting benefits the garden, helps the environment, saves money, and builds your garden soil. Dan Ressler will teach you how to get started or share tips to help you become a compost master. There will be samples of different types of compost and compost bugs to experience while we explore how it works. Children are welcome.



#### **Produce Donations**

#### By Arden Miller



We are excited to have new gardeners join the community for the 2025 growing season. We hope that you will grow extra produce to donate. The garden has a solar powered refrigerator for storage of vegetables prior to donation. There are instructions on the refrigerator for those who donate.

ESCG donates produce to various locations in Eastern Snyder County. Produce is given to the food pantry at St Paul's UCC for their end of the month food distribution. It is given to Martha's Table at All Saint's Episcopal church to be either used in a meal or given out during their twice a month dinner. Produce is featured in the frozen meals made at St. Pius X. Those frozen meals are used as emergency meals for those in need and are also distributed monthly from the church. Meals4Seals families benefit from the produce donated by ESCG gardeners. At times, produce heads to Middleburg to GraceWorks at Grace Covenant Community Church and to Kidsgrove Playground in Selinsgrove.

No donated produce is ever wasted. We are looking forward to working with all gardeners to make this a great year for donations. A calendar of donations and contact information will be kept in the small shed. If you are able to help with this project, please call 570-374-5369.





DON'T FORSET! Bring the entire family to JOY TO THE EARTH FESTIVAL APRIL 26 @ SELINSGROVE COMMONS

Sponsored by Citizens' Climate Lobby and Education, Susquehanna Valley Chapter



photo by Arden Miller

## Mother Goose at the Garden

ESCG is looking forward to hosting Mother Goose at the Garden. Miss Lubow from the Rudy Gelnett Memorial Library will be coming the garden this summer. Stayed tuned for the schedule.





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