

February

Winter's characteristically cold weather is, this year, a late gift brought by February. Given the season's frequently drab weather, it is no wonder that in early Roman calendars winter was the only season not to be subdivided into months. The month of February (along with January) was added later.

Though not the month for outdoor work — February is best for sitting by the fireplace with a good book and a cup of hot chocolate — the garden is on our minds. In these frigid temperatures, summer might feel like it's never been further away. Despite this feeling, however, now is the time to start planning for the oncoming spring.

We have ordered an array of seeds we hope to get started in the greenhouse soon: everything from different varieties of heirloom tomatoes to an assortment of potatoes, lettuce, and peas. If there's anything you're especially interested in growing in the garden this year, please let us know at our monthly potluck, which will be at 6:30 on Wednesday February 28!! Camden + Jeremy

May

Potluck: Wed. May 23rd 6:30

Work day: Sun. May 20th 2-5

"What potent blood hath Modest May"
— Ralph Waldo Emerson

Suspended between the rainy months of spring and the approaching summer, May has finally arrived. Doubtlessly one of the perfect gardening months, the last frost has finally passed, creating the perfect climate to start growing plants outside straight from seed — everything from greens to nasturtiums.

This month, we welcome the garden's two new coordinators: Tess & Ben. We think they'll make a great addition to the garden, especially with all the changes we're expecting. As things stand, demolition of the lower six beds is scheduled for September 1st giving us ample time to grow and harvest summer crops. We plan to meet with the architect at the end of May or beginning of June to further discuss some of the changes to expect. We'll let you know as things unfold.

Keep an eye out for the Southside Community Land Trust's Plant Sale on Saturday May 19th & Sunday May 20th from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Happy planting!

Jeremy, Camden, Tess & Ben



July



While last week's heat wave may have made gardening less than pleasant, it marked the true beginning of summer! The heat is wonderful for the new tomato bed we created this week in front of the hammock which is now joined by a comfy hammock chair smuggled from Cuba. The abundance of tomatoes we had in the greenhouse have now all found homes thanks to Jerry and many others around Providence. Although construction continues to rage outside our walls, the garden remains a peaceful sanctuary filled with ripening fruit. Make sure not to miss the tart rhubarb, succulent peas, crisp greens, tangy red currants and sweet blueberries that are now almost prime for the picking!


Make sure to let us know if you plan to leave town so we can keep your plants well watered in this heat! We hope all of you will join us at our community work day on Saturday the 21st from 2-5 and our potluck on Wednesday the 18th at 6:30. We hope to get to know you this month as we try to live up to Camden & Jerer.

Don't forget water for both you and your plants!
See you soon!

Tess & Ben



AUGUST



DONT MISS:

tomatoes - corn - sunflowers + basil.

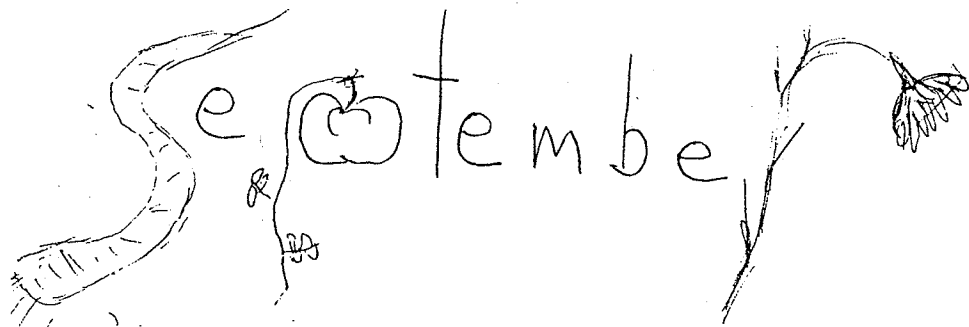


These last few weeks, while taxing for our comfort have produced the first ripe red tomatoes of the season. Grateful for the comfort of our electric fan, we've been working with the administration to finalize plans for our NEW garden. We will present final plans on Wednesday August 15th as we bid farewell to this space as we know it with a lovely (potluck) Garden Party beginning at 6pm.

We have some sad news to report, while travelling in Vermont Tess was involved in a car accident and has returned home to Vancouver for the rest of the summer to recover. She'll be back in the yard with no lasting injuries but until then Katherine will be filling in for her. Please stop by and say hello to her in the coming weeks.

Happy Picking!

Tess Ben + Katherine



Work day: Sept. 8
2-5

Postlude: Sept. 19th
6:30 pm

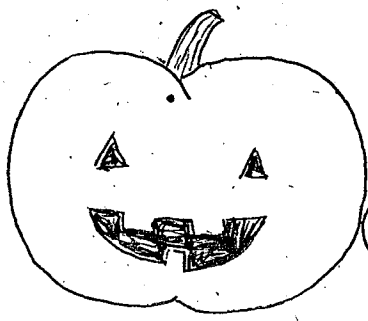
The green of the garden is dotted with the reds of tomatoes, golden hues of early winter squash, and — if you look closely — the pinks and purples of ripening grapes. Sadly, construction crews will begin demolition work on the garden in September. To accommodate them we need to conclude our season by Sept. 6th. This means:

- finish harvest
- salvage any plants you want to bring home
- email Katherine with any special questions
[Katherine — cooper@brown.edu]

The good news is that the University is saving the fig and apple trees as well as the blueberry bushes. They will also preserve the tool shed. Plans for the new garden look great; check them out in the kitchen. Construction will be completed by the new year.

Enjoy the final days of summer.

Ben + Katherine

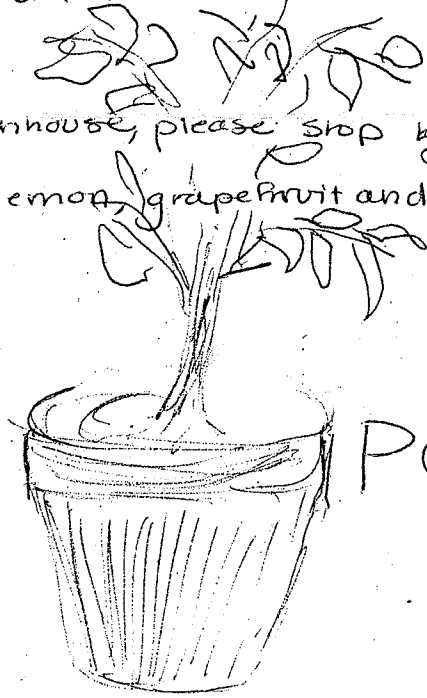


October

As the seasons turn so does our garden. Construction on the garden has begun; an arborist has taken control of our beloved fig and apple trees. The fig will move into the greenhouse later in the fall.

Speaking of the greenhouse, please stop by to check out our three new dwarf citrus trees - lemon, grapefruit and orange. Hopefully they'll bear fruit...

Also check out
The Geraniums.



POTLUCK
OCTOBER 24th

September's potluck was great fun, we all enjoyed some chili, cornbread, and apple crisp - good warm food for the cold month. Please join us for some more on OCTOBER 24th at 6:30 pm.

Enjoy the crisp leaves as they fall!

Katherine + Ben

* Call Paul

NOVEMBER

This month, in the absence of a Garden we have a recipe to bring some local flavor to your wintry greens:

CIDER VINAIGRETTE

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup Rhode Island Apple Cider
- 3 tablespoons finely chopped shallots
- 2 tablespoons cider vinegar
- 2 teaspoons grainy mustard
- salt and pepper to taste

1. Reduce cider to $\frac{1}{3}$ in heavy saucepan.
2. Whisk reduced cider together with remaining ingredients.

In other news, the greenhouse is becoming even more lush with the coming of the cold. Our new citrus trees are doing well and we've cleared a space for the fig tree

Our potluck this month will be on WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 28th at 6:30 pm.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Patricia + Ben

P.S. Be sure to check out the 2008 RIPE Calendar featuring nude bodies dressed with seasonal produce. Proceeds benefit local agriculture: farmfreshRI.org/ripe