

## Garden Line - November, a Month for Giving Thanks

by Brent Moon - HPARD Urban Garden Manager

### November, a Month for Giving Thanks

Hopefully, you planted some tomatoes back in July or August and are reaping the rewards that fall's cooler temperatures have brought. For many of you, your bell peppers have been enjoying the cooler temperatures and are producing like crazy. Enjoy it while you can, since these are warm weather crops that will start to decline as we get closer to December.



Your winter garden should now be in high gear. Lettuce and cabbage should be growing like gangbusters, and it's possible that you've already gotten a harvest of radishes. My wife loves radishes, so I always try to grow her some. She likes them sliced up in a salad or just eaten whole, and although I enjoy most vegetables, I've never really enjoyed radishes. I prefer kohlrabi myself. If you are growing kohlrabi, be sure to harvest it before it gets too large. A good size is around 2" or so in diameter. These are nice and crunchy diced up in salads, as well.

You can harvest lettuce before it is really big, as well. Several types of the leaf lettuce varieties lend themselves well to this. There are some nice mixes out there with a beautiful blend of reds and greens and a dizzying array of leaf shapes, from large sail-shaped leaves and oak leaf-shapes to crinkly leaf-shapes. It goes on and on! Nothing looks better to me than a salad that is full of different colors and shapes! There should be nothing boring about salad these days, and you should never settle for boring old Iceberg lettuce ever again.



Also popular in winter are the so called "micro-greens". Micro-greens are different types of salad greens that are picked at a very small size. When harvested at a young age, they are very tender and flavorful. Some people even add edible flowers into the mix, such as pansy, nasturtium, calendula, cilantro flowers, and begonia. No boring salads found here!



Keep an eye out for pests, such as cut worms, cabbage loopers, and aphids. It never really gets cold enough here to kill these pests, so you'll have to deal with them eventually. An application of Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) will help to control most caterpillars and you can blast off most aphids with a strong jet of water. You may have to try some insecticidal soap or Neem oil to help control the aphids if they are extremely bad.

Don't forget to give your plants a feeding with a good organic fertilizer. It will keep your plants healthy and help them fight off pests and disease.

And what are we giving thanks for this month? How about the fact that we live in a part of the country where we can grow great veggies year round! Go a little further north this time of year and they're already having freezing weather that rules out growing things like lettuce and cabbage. I, for one, am very thankful for my winter garden!

