

The gardens are looking pretty good. The potatoes are growing rapidly and even starting to bloom a bit. I wonder whether they need to bloom in order for us to be able to harvest potatoes? What do you think? We might be asking you this question when we are working in the garden next so give some thought to this question. You can look it up on the web or in gardening books, think of it the kind of a question that needs some research. How do we know when the potatoes are ready to dig??

The onions in the annex and orchard are also growing very nicely. They are standing quite tall now. How do we know when to harvest our onions? Has anyone seen an onion flower? Do onions produce seeds?

The collard, kale, spinach, lettuce, peppers and tomatoes are also growing very nicely at this time of the year. And yes, it is time to start thinking of planting those summer crops such as okra, beans, squash, tomatillos eggplant, and eventually sweet potatoes. We have spent the last couple of days preparing a number of beds in the orchard for some of these summer crops.

The citrus trees in the orchard are not showing any outward signs of recovery but many gardeners are cautioning to wait for one more month before concluding that the citrus trees were killed by the frost. Take a moment when you are next in the gardens and see if you can tell which of the citrus trees are dead or going to survive.

Speaking of trees, have you been monitoring this year's class tree? How is it doing? Please take a moment and see how it's doing relative to last year's tree.

During the next 2 weeks we will be studying insects and pest management. Pay special attention to how organic gardeners use organic means to control pests. The trade-off is to minimize crop damage due to pests while having the least negative effects on our environment. See if you can spot how this can be done without harming our environment.

Looking forward to working together this week.