



## BCFG April Newsletter

We are counting down the weeks until we open for the 2021 season! The operating committee is working behind the scenes to make our 40th year a special year.

In this month's newsletter you will find a call out to help us fundraise for a new pavillion, a reminder for the Tomato Monster sale, a note on our kickoff meeting, plus lots more useful tidbits.



**The operating committee recently launched a crowdfunding campaign (loby) to help us close the funding gap for a new gathering space/pavillion.**

The space will be a permanent homebase for music, arts, childrens, and community programming (gone will be the days of parking lot concerts!).

Please help us make it a reality by contributing today.

And please send/share with your friends and family!

[Click here to go to the Crowdfunding Page](#)

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## Tomatoes, Seeds, Straw, What's In Season



## Tomato Monster Sale

If you are interested in purchasing heirloom tomato and pepper plants checkout [www.tomatomonsterheirlooms.com](http://www.tomatomonsterheirlooms.com). Pre-order today. Tomato Monster donates \$1 of every plant sold at the May 22nd sale to Ben Franklin Garden.



## What's In Season

Wondering what fruits and vegetables are in season for April. One Potato has a great printable guide for the months of April, May, & June. Click [HERE](#) to see the guide.



## Cleveland Seed Bank

The Cleveland Seed Bank just opened their free seed libraries in partnership with the Hummingbird Project, click [HERE](#) for more information.



## Straw Sales

If you plan to use straw as a weed barrier. Make sure to get your order in. Straw is \$7 a bale and will be delivered to the garden on a TBA date. To order straw click [HERE](#)

# Education, Events, Survey



## Tomatoes

Ohio State University Extension has a great article on tomatoes. Worth a read if you plan to plant tomatoes this season. [ARTICLE](#)



## Disease

**Identification Apps**  
Now is a great time to learn about diseases that can harm your plants. The Mama Pirate compiled a great resource in ten of the best Disease Identification Apps. Click [HERE](#).



## Application Survey

This was our first year offering the application via online. We would love your feedback, good or bad on how your experience went so we can improve the process next year. The survey



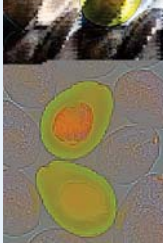
## Garden Walk

Mark your calendar. Ben Franklin Community Garden will participate in this years Garden Walk. Garden Walk Cleveland will be July 10th and 11th. There are 7

takes 2-3 mins of your time. Click [HERE](#) to access.

Cleveland neighborhoods participating.

[CLICK HERE](#) to register for event updates or to add your home garden to the list.



### Recipe Corner

If you looked at the One Potato link on What's In Season, you would have seen that avocados are in season in April. They are great for guacamole. However, have you ever thought of making pudding with this nutritional fruit?

Check out Minimalist Bakers Chocolate Peanut Butter Avocado pudding [HERE](#) or Chocolate Covered Katie's Avocado Chocolate Mousse [HERE](#)

Let us know if you make it by tagging us with #bfcgarden on social media.

### SAVE THE DATE: Virtual Kick-Off Meeting

**May 4th, 6-7pm:** Meeting will be held virtually. There will be important updates for events, garden opening details, plot assignments, details on purchasing sweet potato slips and seed potatoes, volunteer assignments, explanation of rules and Covid-19 Procedures, reveal of new T-shirts and garden gear that will be available this season. The committee will also be available to answer questions.

ALL gardeners are *highly* encouraged to attend.

**Keep an eye on your inbox for meeting links/instructions.**



### Grants Update

Our grants subcommittee has been busy chasing down and applying for funding throughout the off-season.

We're excited to announce that we were awarded a \$5,000 'Get Outside' Grant from Neighborhood Connections to go towards our pavillion.

We have won funding for soil improvements and are in the mix for a handful of other opportunities, we will keep everyone updated to our progress.

Lastly, we appreciate everyone's votes in the Nature's Path contest but unfortunately we weren't among the winners. One thing's for sure- it wasn't for lack of community support!

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April's Committee Meeting is April 24th at 6:30pm. All are welcome to attend. Meetings are currently held virtually. RSVP [HERE](#) to attend this month or future meetings. REMINDER: Visitors will have 5 minutes at the end of the meeting to speak.

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