

# Growing Food in Puget Ridge

*Come and share your ideas and experiences  
at a*

## Neighborhood Potluck and Meeting

**Saturday, September 15**

**Potluck 6:00 to 7:00 PM**

**Meeting 7:00 to 8:30 PM**

(come to one or both)

**at 6559 18th Avenue SW**

### Do you enjoy gardening?

Have you thought of growing your own food?

*(Are you concerned about food prices going up?)*

Are you already growing fruit and/or vegetables?

*(Would you like to grow more?)*

Do you have gardening experience to share?

Have you thought about raising chickens? Bees?

How about bartering produce with other neighbors?

Would you be interested in rotating work parties  
in each other's gardens?



You can harvest medlar apples in the winter.

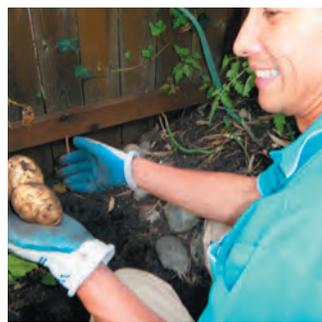
*(Take a look at this tree at the September 15th meeting—6559 18th.)*



Three Croft Place gardeners—Fatuma, Maggie, and Blen



Su (18th) and her trellised 8-foot-tall cucumber vine. "I was expected to water the family garden after school—that's how I learned to grow vegetables."



Leo (17th), harvesting potatoes—for the first time!



Edible flowers—borage and nasturtium



Janice (18th), weeding and composting.



Espaliered apple trees at COWS (Community Orchard of West Seattle)—at South Seattle Community College

*Also on Saturday, September 15:*

## Work Party at Croft Place

**10:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

(come for all or part of it)

**6701 21st Ave. SW**

Maggie Rathbun and other Croft Place residents have put in and maintained a community vegetable garden.

It's a great place for our first food-growing work party.

We'll be planting, mulching, and weeding. Bring your gloves and a shovel.

*See other side . . . .*



Straw mulch—retains soil moisture, keeps down weeds, composts into good soil.



*Question: What do you like about growing food? Kathy (18th): “Grazing!” Future plans? “I’d like to have a ‘food forest.’” (Find out what that is at the September 15 meeting.)*



Sara (18th): “I quite literally fell into landscaping and gardening when I bought this house a few years back. It started out as a series of experiments and ideas and blossomed from there. I love to learn, so I took the lessons and teachings of others to see what I could create. From there it became an ongoing challenge that pays back with wonderful rewards!  
(Notice the netting to discourage the 18th Avenue bunnies!)



Here are Vi and Barb (18th) holding two of the “ladies” (chickens). To Vi’s right are three bee hives where the “girls” (bees) zoom around. “Chickens are easier to care for than dogs. When we had four of them, we got about 18 eggs per week. We use their droppings for compost. They eat our food scraps as well as unwanted garden ‘bugs.’ The bees pollinate our apple and plum trees and give us honey.”



Tree collards are perennials and grow up to six feet tall. No replanting of these greens every year! Take a look at them at the September 15 meeting.

Dilbag (18th) points out his single green bean vine: “From this one vine we get a serving of beans for dinner every other day—and we know there are no chemicals in this food.”



Fiore, Xosia, Mateo, and Hannah, harvesting in the Puget Ridge Cohousing greenhouse. A creative scarecrow keeps watch. (17th and Myrtle)



Esperanza (17th): “We put chard in the morning omelet. Cherry tomatoes are great to grab for a snack on-the-run.”

## STAY CONNECTED!

There are two Puget Ridge Google Groups:

### **Puget Ridge Neighborhood Announcements and Alerts:**

- announcements, crime alerts, lost pets, etc.

### **Puget Ridge Neighborhood Exchange:**

- selling / buying / bartering / trading items and services
- “freecycling” — free items, services, skills
- sharing ideas about the neighborhood.

To join one or both: e-mail Aaron Applebaum at [aonoraha@gmail.com](mailto:aonoraha@gmail.com) or go to the new Puget Ridge web site at [pugetridge.org](http://pugetridge.org).

“Working in the garden is wonderful therapy for us. It is especially wonderful when we are harvesting our vegetables, raspberries, blackberries, cherries, figs, kiwi, etc.! Home grown tastes so much better and gives one a great sense of fulfillment!”

—Michael and Della (18th)

