

NCMGVA Seed Starting Committee Minutes March 4th, 2021

Members present Roseann, Russ, Laird, Sandy, Kevin and Lorraine

Reviewed the COVID-19 safety measure best practices for our greenhouse activities.

Updated AAS Winner Seed Shipment chart with the additional pepper and tomato seeds sent to Arlington Horticulture. Kevin will check with Richmeyer for his scheduled seed starting dates. Sandy suggested getting a timeline for when the plants will be picked up for the MGVs to plan when we need to gather to plant them in the Teaching & Display Gardens.

Discussed specific MGVs who will plant what:

- Roseann will seed start Fennel, Okra and Pak Choi
- Jill will seed start the four varieties of Watermelon.
- Laird will seed start the Mizuna, two types of peppers, and one Tomato variety.
- Susan will seed start one zinnia variety.
- Russ will seed start Mary Metzger's late husband's tomato seeds. Mary is from Cumberland. We will plant these in one of our new beds as an "honor bed".

Roseann will order from BFG the 2.8 cu. Ft. bag of Premier ProMix PG. This will be shipped to the station, and Roseann will let Phil and Lorraine know when they may expect it.

For our vine crops, we will use the ProMix we have on hand in inventory. The vine crops will be started in 4" pots about one month before they go into the garden, i.e., start about May 11th.

We reviewed our garden layout design "Preliminary 1-23-20" and discussed the shortening of the rows of wine & table grapes, and the hops to make room for the two new beds that will be 14'L x 60'W each. Kevin will talk with Phil about it, and Roseann stated she has provided Phil with this layout this Winter, and Phil was agreeable to making the garden design changes.

Kevin discussed the need for organic fertilizer to be put on the AAS beds to keep up on soil fertility. Kevin will talk with Phil about this and get back to us.

As we will be using our previously used pots, we will follow the process detailed in the "Damping-Off" UW Extension fact sheet. (soak them for at least 20 minutes in 10% bleach, then rinse them thoroughly to remove bleach residues).

Roseann asked Sandy to request in our monthly meeting "Volunteer Opportunities" volunteers to help sanitize the pots; to adopt a pinwheel thinking of the AAS Diversity 2021 theme, adopt a perennial bed, clean up the garden shed, and work on signage.

Next meeting is set for April 8th at 5:30 pm via ZOOM.