

# Weekly Wild Wednesday

*For October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020*

Hello everyone, what a great week!



The Seed Exchange was successfully held prior to the dramatic change in weather, sunshine to SNOW in 24 hours! We were so VERY lucky with the weather, and shared lots of laughter, sunshine, and stories throughout the day.



On a visit to Tom and Cheri's, I noticed how beautifully their compost bins are decorated, this really made me smile. Could a Compost Bin Beautification Class -or contest- be in our future?

They also dropped off an excellent and detailed Citizen Science Report at the Seed Exchange. It has an overview of their gardens and their Native Plant experiences-the results of 1 year of growth on their Native Plants. The report also has recommendations of suitable Native plants for the Urban Garden Projects. This will be incredibly helpful to the "Grow Wild!" Experimental Test Gardens, as this research is a year ahead of the new "Grow Wild" projects. Thank you both so much! If you would like a copy of this research, let me know.



At The Flower House, several of you had excellent suggestions! Back to the Drawing Board. In about 10 minutes it was removed, and we have a blank slate again—That is the beauty of the Cardboard Method of laying out a garden. For the first couple of weeks you can relocate or remove it without any harm. Here is the 'after' photo, with supplies saved for our redesign. Those designs are being redrawn with the ideas suggested. Thank you! Send all your thoughts and layouts!



Also at The Flower House, the lawn service, which stopped treating the lawns in early September, started gathering lawn and leaf clippings for a heavy layer of overwintering mulch against the fencing as shown. Also a neighbor was contacted and we can gather and recycle those untreated leaves as well. Brainstorming is currently going on regarding how to keep the cedar edging upright without digging. A thin wooden strip nailed onto the back and a Jute String wrap are two of the current experiments. Please put your thinking caps on, and share your ideas for securing this edging—all ideas for testing are welcomed!

At Charese's Guarantee Gardens, the trellis was set up outdoors on the installation site for a photo shoot of employees with the trellis- and then it was taken back indoors for another coat of finishing paint. I will try to get this photo--I was at the Seed Exchange, wish I could have been two places at once. That's a Good Life!

Sign: A get together will be scheduled hopefully within the month, please send any suggestions and ideas for Ruth, Sara, Dawn, and Elisa to consider. All thoughts are greatly appreciated.

See next page: At the Seed Exchange, there was a small example of how to set up garden areas. Is there a way to mass share this simple Fall/Winter garden preparation for easy planting in Spring? Thoughts, please?

Also, as we are all heading into a Winter Wonderland of Adventures, the Wednesday Wild will be hibernating-- or at least taking long naps throughout the Winter-- and will only report on weeks when there has been activity. There may be reports of personal progress at "The Once and Future Prairie" on Winter Invasive Editing, and other projects unrelated to Wild! Please share your photos and progress as well, for future publishing!

## No Dig Fall/Winter Preparation for Spring Planting

1. Save and flatten cardboard boxes, removing the plastic tape.
2. Lay down a hose in the shape of the garden you prefer.
3. Either spray paint the shape around the hose, or leave the hose in place as you lay out cardboard.



4. Lay out the cardboard, brown side up, inside the shape you created.



5. Cover 2-4 inches deep with mulch of your choice. Leaves, lawn clippings, wood chips, bark, whatever you prefer.

6. Edge- if you like- with any edging material of choice. Logs, bricks, concrete edgers, lawn edging with a shovel or-- anything!

6. Add a bird bath, rock, or a piece of garden art if you choose. 7. Water thoroughly -if Nature is not doing this for you-- and wait until Spring to plant right THROUGH the cardboard. The cardboard acts a biodegradable



weed barrier and turns the grass into natural compost in several weeks.





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