

October **DIRT**

Silver Ridge Park - Westerly

Garden Committee 2024

'DIRT' you need to know:

Divide **perennials** this month before they spread too far into other parts of your garden or into your neighbor's yard. Trim your Lavender when done flowering into a compact and neat shape for next year. As long as annual weeds like crabgrass are still growing, pull them out of your flower beds as most annual seeds last more than 5 years, so one crabgrass plant can give you 5 extra years of pulling!

Collect your own **annual flower seeds** because they are expensive to purchase next Spring. So grab your own Devil's Trumpet, Cosmos, Money-plant, Zinnia and Tropical Milkweed. Dry them completely, place in a labeled paper bag and store them in the 'fridge for the Winter.

Get ready, with the chill in the air to feed the birds for the Winter. Unfortunately, as you watch out the window all you see are squirrels and deer eating the seed you put out. What can you do? Try adding a food grade '**habanero chili pepper**' mix to your bird seed. Birds have different taste receptors than mammals. So what would feel hot in your mouth, the birds do not feel the pain. An 8-oz. product sold in WalMart's bird seed aisle can add a spicy seasoning to a 35# bag of bird seed.

Pick up after your dog, not only as a common courtesy, but it is your responsibility as a dog owner. Even if your dog is not sick, **dog waste** contains bacteria and parasites that can contaminate soil and water and be harmful to other dogs. Dog poo is not natural because as you feed your pet a specifically designed diet what comes out the other end is excessive amounts of nitrates that can hurt the native plants in our Pinelands natural ecosystem. Picking up after your dog may not be the favorite part of walking your dog, but it is important to keep SRP-Westerly 'safe and clean'.



'DIRT' on what we have scheduled:

Wednesday OCTOBER 9th **Fun Project** starting at 10am. With the cooler weather we will be working on our next garden bed project, installing, mulching, etc. Bring your gardening gloves and your enthusiasm to the ClubHouse.

Wednesday OCTOBER 30th **Monthly Meeting** starting at 7pm. We will discuss why 'Fall is for Planting' and other Autumn garden chores. As always, bring your gardening questions.

Co-Gardeners:

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