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# GROWING TOGETHER

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Plantation Lakes Garden Club, P. O. Box 904, Millsboro, Delaware 19966

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## June Hostesses

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Thank you to our wonderful hostesses for today's meeting, Gerri Williams & Tina Latshaw.

## Summer Birthdays

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Happy Birthday to all of our members with summer birthdays.

June 27 - Gerri Williams

July 24 - Chris Miller

August 26 - Sylvia Heidbreder

August 28 - Mary Williford

## Happy Summer!

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Be sure to watch our Facebook Page throughout the summer for announcements regarding local events and club news.

## Next Week...

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June 18, 10 - 4., rain or shine.

Cape Farm & Garden Tour: Mill Pond Garden in Lewes, Lavender Fields at Warrington Manor in Milton, and Black Hog Farmstead in Lewes. For more information, visit <http://capefarmandgardentour.org>

Stop by all three locations for special activities at each.

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## Today's Program

PLGC members will carpool for our first annual field trip, which takes place today after a short business meeting at the Plantation Lakes Community Center.

The Destination: Lavender Fields at Warrington Manor

This is Delaware's premier lavender farm, located on five-acres in nearby Milford. Owners Sharon Harris and Marie Mayor have been growing quality lavender at this site since 2003. We expect to find their seasonal lavender plants in bloom and enjoy the opportunity to purchase some of their lavender bath and body products, honey from their own beehives, and a variety of culinary and handcrafted items.

Lavender Fields Farm is located near Lewes and Rehoboth Beach, off Route 9 on Cool Spring Road, about 30 minutes from Plantation Lakes. Address: 18864 Cool Springs, Rd, Milton, DE 19968.



## Chris Miller's Horticulture Tip

### Planting Tomatoes

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, tomatoes are the most popular home-grown vegetable in the country. This would have to be because they are both delicious and easy to cultivate. It's amazing how good a home-grown tomato tastes. They are not just good, they're also good for you.

**SUN** - If you have even a moderately sunny spot (four to five hours of sunlight will do, though eight is best), dig in some compost, and set out some tomato seedlings in the spring, after the last frost.

**HOW TO PLANT** - Tomatoes should be planted 2 to 3 feet apart. They can also be used as container plants. If planting in a container, match the size of the pot to the expected size of the plant. Be sure to plant tomato plants deep, leaving at least the top set of leaves visible. The more deeply they are planted, the more roots will form, providing the plant with additional support and better nutrient uptake.

For maximum tomato yields, always stake or cage your plants. Insert supports when you first plant so as not to damage roots after they have grown. Emerging fruits will benefit from improved air circulation and less ground pest problems.

**WATER** - Tomatoes need watering to prevent blossom end rot. Using drip or soaker hose irrigation is best; water is used more efficiently this way and the leaves don't get wet. Water thoroughly but not often (your goal is 1 - 2" of water per week). Try to water early in the day so that plants will dry off before evening. This helps to reduce disease problems.

**MULCH YOUR TOMATOES** - Mulching helps to insure an even supply of moisture to the tomato plant and helps to protect plant roots. Using plastic, straw, or composted material around the base of the tomatoes will also increase the quality and production of fruit. Without mulch around the base of the plants, when you weed, pulling weeds from around the base disrupts the root system of the plant. Tomato plants are very sensitive to root injury so try to avoid cultivating or pulling weeds near the base of the plant.

**FERTILIZE** - Fertilize regularly, following package directions.

***Start looking for recipes and prepare yourself for a bountiful and tasty harvest!***

### 2016-17 Hostesses

All hostess slots must be filled today for 2016-17 general meetings and board meetings so they can be included in the PLGC yearbook. Anyone who has not signed up by the end of today's meeting will be assigned an open date by the Hospitality Chair.

Plans can change, of course, and there is some flexibility. Our Hospitality Chair Jonnie Mann will work with members to help find a substitute or trade, as needed.

### Design Exhibits

Many of our members have never even attended a flower show, let alone participated in one.

As a first baby step to preparing for our own flower show someday in the future, each member will have an opportunity next year to try their hand at creating a design exhibit. This will be a no-pressure experiment for all of us!

Exhibitors will be selected today by lottery, and you may trade with another member.