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# There's Still Time To Plant

Whether you believe in climate change or not, the weather can certainly reek havoc with our plans. We had quite a lot of rain at the end of May, when we usually get out into the garden to plant. It may be too late to sow the long-term vegetables like tomatoes, peppers, or eggplant, but there is still time to work in a few of the favorites.

Beets take an average of 45 to 55 days to mature. They are heavy feeders, so be sure to give them lots of organic compost or well-rotted manure. They can also be top-dressed at any time during the growing season. Beet "seeds" are actually fruits that contain many seeds. Prepare the beds as usual – adding soil amendments like greensand, Azomite powder, kelp meal, and organic alfalfa meal. Fluff it up with a pitchfork or a broad fork and then rake it flat. Sow the seeds thickly, as it is easy to thin but almost impossible to fill in rows that don't germinate well. Cover with a quarter- to a half-inch of compost or old manure. Be sure to cover them right away as birds love beet seeds and you don't want them to disappear. Water well and keep this top layer wet until they germinate. Once they appear, thin on a regular basis. The greens can be eaten at any stage and are actually more nutritious than the beets. Small beets are divine.

Broccoli takes from 49 to 60 days to mature depending on the variety. Prepare the bed as usual, but

**Green Monadnock**  
with Celeste Longacre



then create some hills with a depression in the middle; it looks like the top of a volcano. Sow the seeds here as this will create an automatic water catch for them. It's a good idea to leave some room for a few marigold plants to plant around them. This will help to keep the cabbage moth away.

Carrots take 56 to 75 days to mature. They are not the easiest crop to grow, as they are very moisture-sensitive before they emerge. You need to keep the top half-inch of soil wet for the entire 10 to 14 days that it takes for them to germinate. One trick is to prepare the bed as usual, then place some coconut coir right where you are going to place the carrot seeds. This medium holds onto moisture. Then cover with a quarter- to half-inch of compost or old manure. Again, sow thickly for a good germination.

Swiss chard takes from 47 to 59 days to mature. They are a close relative to the beet, so plant them the same way.

Spinach is actually best sown once the days are getting shorter. When the days are getting longer, they just bolt to seed. I usually look for a wintering-over spinach and plant it the second week of August; this gives us spinach well into the fall. Once the snow threatens, cover it with plastic over hoops. Most years, it comes back in the spring.

Peas can also be sown as a fall crop. Look for varieties that are powdery-mildew resistant.

Lettuce should be planted every 10 to 14 days all summer long. This can be ready to eat in as little as 28 days. It also gets bitter as it ages, so it's best to keep sowing it for tender, young leaves. By September, look for a wintering-over variety and plant the same way as spinach. We usually have both spinach and lettuce until Thanksgiving and often until Christmas, and it sometimes returns in the spring.

Happy gardening!

Celeste and Bob Longacre have been living sustainably for almost 40 years. Her book, "Celeste's Garden Delights" details exactly how to do this and is available at many local businesses. Celeste is also looking for venues to do koass demos.

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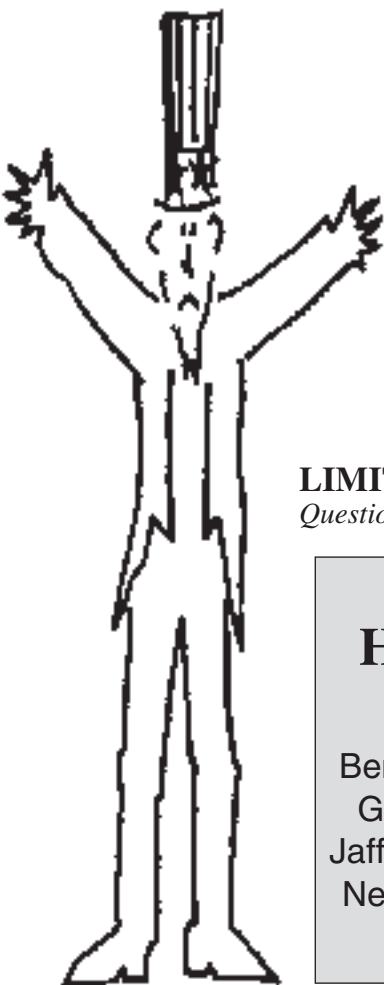
## Locally Based Crowdfunding Platform Seeks Proposals

Entrepreneurs, businesses, and organizations based in Keene, Chesterfield, Hinsdale, Swanzey, and Winchester are invited to submit project proposals to The Local Crowd (TLC) Monadnock, a new crowdfunding platform serving the Monadnock Region. Successful proposals will launch their campaigns this fall, based on their ability to positively impact local economies and communities.

Unique to this particular crowdfunding platform is the free hands-on technical assistance accepted proposals will receive to help create and launch their campaigns. In addition, TLC Monadnock will award one proposal a free video, donated by 710 Main Films, to support their crowdfunding campaign. Studies show that crowdfunding campaigns with videos raise four times more funds than campaigns without videos.

This request for proposals is available online at [www.monadnocklocal.org/rfp](http://www.monadnocklocal.org/rfp). All proposals are due before 5 p.m. on Friday, July 7th.

# FREE HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION



A Great Opportunity to Clean Toxic Wastes from your basement, workbench, garage and cupboards.

**WHAT TO BRING:** Products marked toxic, poison, corrosive, irritant, hazardous, flammable, danger. If you think it's hazardous, bring it up.

**WHAT NOT TO BRING:** Empty Containers (can be recycled), Latex Paint, Ammunition, Fireworks, Radioactive Materials, Make-Up & Toiletries.

**OTHER INFORMATION:** Containers must be labeled as to their contents. No containers larger than 5 gallons will be accepted. LIMIT: 10 GAL. PER HOUSEHOLD PER COLLECTION. Collection takes approximately 10 minutes from the time of arrival.

**ALSO:** Check out our new reuse center for items such as good quality paint or various cleaning products. Perfect for a small job and, best of all, it's FREE!

LIMIT: 10 GAL. PER HOUSEHOLD PER COLLECTION  
Questions: Please call (603) 352-5739 • Sponsored by The City of Keene



DO NOT MIX PRODUCTS

## Summer 2017 Household Hazardous Waste Collection SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2016

Bennington, Chesterfield, Dublin, Fitzwilliam, Greenfield, Hancock, Harrisville, Hinsdale, Jaffrey, Keene, Marlborough, Marlow, Nelson, New Ipswich, Richmond, Stoddard, Sullivan, Surry, Swanzey, Troy and Walpole.

All collections will be held at the **KEENE HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION FACILITY** from 8 am - 1 pm

Facility is located adjacent to the **Keene Recycling Center, 55 Old Summit Rd., Keene**

From Rte. 12/West Street intersection, travel Rte. 12 North approx. 4.5 mi. Facility entrance is at the top of the hill on left hand side of the road.

Read the **Monadnock Shopper News** online: [www.shoppernews.com](http://www.shoppernews.com)

