Communities of Practice Design Blueprint

Zone 5 Gardening Community of Learning and Practice

1. **Topic, context and learners**
   
   My topic is more of a personal hobby topic than a focused professional career topic. It’s about gardening; more specifically the growing of vegetables. Even more specifically, the growing of vegetables in what the National Gardening Association has defined as the Zone 5 Hardiness area. The people targeted to be involved are local gardeners in the area that have self-defined, or otherwise been identified, as being part of Zone 5. The learning is very informal, completely voluntary, and centered through social media outlets and on-line collaboration tools. The focus is on sharing experiences, tools, tips and resources for this particular gardening community.

2. **Learning Goals**

   2.1. Members of this community will be able identify how they have been determined to be part of the Zone 5 gardening community
   
   2.2. Participants in this community will regularly log gardening activities so that others can share positive experiences and challenges on a public blog
2.3. Participants will be able to identify the various types of soil conditions that can be found in Zone 5, and how to adjust them for the best growing conditions.

2.4. Participants in this community will share local resources in their areas so that members of the community develop a broader sources of resources.

3. **Activities**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Website/Link</th>
<th>Figure Ref.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A public push, on Facebook, Twitter and this blog, will solicit members to sign up for the CoP and commit to be part of the practice for the defined growing season (April – September).</td>
<td><a href="http://howdoesyourgardengrown.blogspot.com/">http://howdoesyourgardengrown.blogspot.com/</a></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the introductory phase of the CoP individuals will link to this site, and then share on the blog site their location, and how they are a part of Zone 5.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.garden.org/zipzone/">https://www.garden.org/zipzone/</a></td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Without</em> support of a suggested site, members of this forum will discuss their soil conditions, pH Levels, how they determined their pH levels, and what they did to get them to the ideal level for growing. They will be encouraged to share the resources they used to determine pH on the site for others.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Participants will use this schedule to determine when they will plant their vegetables, and then</td>
<td><a href="http://www.thevegetablegarden.info/resources/planting-schedules/zones-5-6-planting-schedule">http://www.thevegetablegarden.info/resources/planting-schedules/zones-5-6-planting-schedule</a></td>
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share on the blog how they will lay out their gardening plan and schedule. Other members of the community will comment and provide feedback, and ask questions through the blog. All members will be encouraged to share their own gardening journal methodology for others to comment on.

Individuals are encouraged to post the resources where they got their starter plants or fertilizer.

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<tr>
<th>Weekly blog postings regarding individual garden progress will be posted here. Members are encouraged to regularly solicit feedback from others on issues that are affecting their garden.</th>
<th><a href="http://howdoesyourgardengrown.blogspot.com/">http://howdoesyourgardengrown.blogspot.com/</a>  Example provided in Figure 3.</th>
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<td>At the end of the planting season, each participant will post triumphs and opportunities for improvement for the next season.</td>
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<td>In addition as part of their official “graduation” from the CoP they will be required to share how they will wrap up their</td>
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garden environment for the season so that it is in the best condition and most prepared for the next growing season.

Figure 1

Click on your region for an enlarged view

Color Chart Reference

Figure 2

How Does UR Garden Grow?

I love nature (thank-you Dad), and thankfully it loves me back in amazing ways among my little acre here in the middle of nowhere USA. Birds, gardening, flowers, and just a great night sky make me appreciate what is being shown to me every day. I'm appreciating it, and "paying it forward" by passing it on to those who haven't learned to, or taken the time to, find beauty in nature.

FRIDAY, JULY 22, 2011

Transplanting Morning Glories

I started drafting this post a few weeks ago because I was truly hoping the result would be my reporting that the experts were wrong, and that you truly CAN transplant morning glories. Unfortunately, my scientific lab results (my back porch and front porch) have in fact proven to me that you can't transplant morning glories once they are at a certain point. I had read that in a few places (links below)

[Image of morning glory plant]
4. Reflection

I’ve been a member of a few different Communities of Practice, but they haven’t always shared “useful knowledge”, and have more been a forum for the experts to share their experiences. I wanted this Community of Practice to be more engaging and interactive where everyone could share equally, and everyone could learn at their own pace.

When I saw that the possibility for this project could be a “hobby” I was thrilled to be able to do something outside the eLearning, Mobile Learning and Human Resources CoPs that I belong to. To support the goal of more free interaction I’m using public social medium forums, including my own personal blog that I wish I had more time to update and participate on, as part of the sharing. I’ve included some of my favorite sites, those that I
find most valuable, and encouraged participants to share some of their favorite local places where they buy their plants or gardening materials to share knowledge.

As Spring approaches, and my garden has been tilled and is getting ready for planting, I can’t think of a better topic or community to be involved in!