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Garlic can thrive in Utah gardens, with the proper care

By **Larry A. Sagers**, For the Deseret News

Published: Sunday, Aug. 29, 2010 5:18 p.m. MDT

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Norris is a great believer in fertilizing the garlic to get it to grow. He puts a teaspoon of bone meal on top of each bulb when he plants it and leaves them alone until spring.

"When the snow melts and the leaves start growing in March, I top dress the plants by sprinkling 16-16-8 fertilizer, much like I am feeding chickens. I let it (the garlic) get 8-10 inches high in April and then hit it with some Miracle Grow. I top dress again in May with more 16-16-8, and in June, when it gets hot, I give it one more shot of Miracle Grow."



See both photos | Click to enlarge

Larry Sagers

Richard Norris holds heads of garlic he grew and dried in West Jordan.

"The first part of July, the plants shut down no matter what you do. They are through. I wait until after four or five of the top leaves have wilted and then pull the garlic," he said.

"I clean off all the dirt and string them together and hang them in the rafters of the garage to dry. You can hang them anywhere you like, as long as it is out of the sun and is warm. I let them dry for three to four weeks and then take them down and twist off the beard. I cut them off at about 2 inches and then put six to eight heads in a nylon bag."

"I first save my seed cloves for planting this fall and then pick the ones I am going to eat and the ones I am going to give away."

Evidence of his skill came while sitting at the kitchen table when I visited.

He and his wife, Cindy, had made a batch of salsa the night before.

"Garlic just struck my interest because I like the flavor and I like to grow it," Norris said of his hobby. "I like to grow tomatoes and cucumbers and all the other vegetables and I just like green things." And as a note of interest, I did not see any vampires in his neighborhood, either.

► Garden tips and events

Wasatch Community Gardens is holding its annual free Grateful Tomato Sandwich Party on Sept. 11, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Grateful Tomato Garden, 800 South and 600

From the archive

- [Life in Balance: Make your own lean and light tomato sauce](#) - Aug. 30, 2010
- [Larry Sagers: Root crops a good choice during fickle spring](#) - April 19, 2010
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- [Yardsmart: Planting the unconventional](#) - Jan. 21, 2010

East.

Thanksgiving Point is offering a class on wonderful spring flower gardens, Sept. 9, 21 and 28, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. or 6-8:30 p.m. The cost is \$40.

Thanksgiving Point is also offering a class on creating fabulous fall color in your landscape, Sept. 9, 21 and 28, 2 p.m.-4:30 p.m. The cost is \$40. For more information, or to register, log on to www.thanksgivingpoint.com or call 801-768-4971.

Larry A. Sagers is a horticulture specialist for the Utah State University Extension Service at Thanksgiving Point.

Page: < Previous 1 2

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