

Harvesting Info for IGS!

We need to have members report back to IGS about how their seeds and plants performed. Did you get what you expected from the germination? Did your plants produce the type of gourd which you expected from the category of seed you purchased and planted? Did you let nature pollinate the plants or did you hand pollinate? Were other types of gourds grown nearby?

Feedback from members is the only way we can assure that our seeds are producing the correct fruit. The feedback will be used by the Seeds chair and the Pure Seed Project chair to determine whether we should actually keep the existing batch of seeds or consider using seed from other sources.

A new area on our Web Site will be generated "soon", but with no firm date set yet. This will allow member/growers to input their information and submit it into a database that we will use to collect and retain information from all sources about the viability and reliability of our seeds.

As in all other IGS efforts, this will take our MEMBERS doing the volunteer work of taking time and entering their data. Phil and I have discussed the format of the database and input form to make this as painless as possible. Hopefully this will automate a lot of the entries with the user having to input two items from drop down menus, the Problem Area, and the Gourd Variety. The member will then have to type in the information concerning the problem itself.

2008 Membership Meet

Arrangements have been made with the Miami County Fairgrounds for a site and date to hold our May 2008 Spring Membership meeting. Saturday May 3 is the scheduled date and their 4-H Project building was selected.

The building exhibit floor space available exceeds 18,000 sq ft. Bathroom facilities are included and there is a kitchen. Food service will be provided by the 4-H staff with sandwiches (hamburger, tenderloin, barbecue) etc.

Friday night set up will be allowed. Tables are available (excluding their new white tables). Outside vendor set up space is available

Plenty of parking area near the building is convenient for visitors. RV hook up is available at \$20 -- water plus electric is included and waste disposal is available.

QuickTip—Raised Beds – Cheap, Fast and Easy

We made four small raised beds about five feet in diameter by making circles of plastic garden edging, the kind with the rolled rim, which we riveted together at the seam and fastened to the ground with tent pegs. We have been using them for seven or eight years, and they have held up well. They were especially nice when I had to move my gourd beds from their original location due to a neighbor's construction project blocking my sunlight.

Mary Gayle Van Ingen
Milwaukie, Oregon

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