

The MAD FARMER

Community
& Teaching Garden

Main Library
501 Copper Ave. NW
Albuquerque, NM

Gazette



With a nod to
Wendell Berry

December– January 2025/26

Price : Always Free

“Nature does not hurry, yet
everything is accomplished”

Lao Tzu

Well the gardening season is over. The first year went very well with only a few challenges. The bucket garden was very successful and the plants thrived down in our little courtyard.

The straw bale garden was a little more problematic. For the first part of the season the bales worked as advertised. The straw in the center of the bale composted well and the plants did well. Later in the season the plants struggled as the bales started to compost too much and the started to collapse. Finally I stuck my hand into a bale and found it had broken down so much inside that it was hollow in some places.

That and the fact that the bales were hard to water by hand and have to be replaced every year, have caused me to reconsider this technique next year.

That said, I’ve met some folks who were happy with their straw bale gardens. I guess it’s one of those “results may vary” kind of things, as is much of gardening.

The composting worm bins are doing dandy and the worms are happily munching kitchen scraps and pooping out compost which is what worms do best.

-Clayton



Upcoming Events

There’s not much going on event wise in December and January because it’s winter. It’s time to think about what we learned this last season, and clean up our garden.

That said stay tuned for next spring. So far we’ve got a couple events already planed, so keep these in mind.

Introduction to Bucket Gardening.

Saturday March 7th, 2026 /
10:30-12:00

Want to grow a garden but just don’t have the right kind of space or tillable soil?

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the PUBLIC LIBRARY
ALBUQUERQUE and BERNALILLO COUNTY



THE ALBUQUERQUE PUBLIC
LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Upcoming Events

Introduction to Bucket Gardening continued.....

These techniques will allow you to grow a vegetable garden in a small spaces or land where a traditional garden is not practical, like patios, porches and rental properties. Containers are an inexpensive and efficient way to grow your own food with a strong DIY ethos. We will cover the basics of containers, soil, setup, watering, fertilizing and more.

Bucket Gardening: The Sequel

Saturday March 21st, 2026 / 10:30-12:00

This is the follow up to our Intro to Bucket Gardening program. Learn next level bucket gardening techniques like making your own self watering buckets and a do it yourself drip watering system. We will also cover structures for trellising climbing plants and providing protection against sun, heat, frost and pests. These DIY projects are fairly easy but if you don't have the tools or time we can show you where to buy store bought or online.

FREE SEEDS !!

The South Broadway Library is the home of The ABQ-BERNCO Seed Library. To find out more go to our website at abqlibrary.org And go to the South Broadway Library page under Hours & Locations.



Belizean Habanero Hot Sauce

In Belize they make Habanero Sauce that uses carrots as a main ingredient along with the peppers. The cooked carrots cut the heat without covering up the flavor of the peppers.

2 Tbsp oil

1 1/2 Cups chopped onion

5 cloves of chopped garlic

4 cups of water

2 cups chopped carrots

10 Habanero peppers— remove all the seeds and membrane for mild heat. Remove half the seeds and membrane for medium and leave it all for hot.

1/4 cup lime juice

1/4 cup white or white wine vinegar.

1 tsp. salt

Saute onions and garlic in oil until onions turn translucent.

Add water and carrots and boil until carrots are soft.

Add Habaneros and boil 2 more minutes.

Add lime juice, vinegar and salt.

Transfer everything into a

blender and blend until smooth.

I took peppers and carrots from our garden and made a batch. It was a hit at the library staff breakroom

Farming and Politics, Cass County MO 1895

In these times of hyper partisan politics, may we all be as gracious toward our political foes in times of trouble.

The middle fork of Grand River was about two feet higher this flood than the last one and our friend Simon D. Taylor got another inundation destroying still more property. We are extremely sorry for this. Had it been his political anatomy only that got the washing we would pray for a third dose, but the destruction of property is the destruction of real wealth and we can only wish our friend good luck for the future.

Cass County News 1895

Who is the Mad Farmer?

The Mad Farmer is a fictional character in a series of poems written by Wendell Berry. The Mad Farmer embodies a critique of modern society and its destructive forces, advocating for a return to simpler, more meaningful ways of life centered around nature, community, and ecological responsibility. He is mad in all the best ways.

