



**THE
G A R D E N
OF
The Net-work
of the Year, 2020.**



PAIN RELIEF AND MOON CYCLES
Wyrth Full Moon 3.8.20
Black New Moon 18.8.20
Full Harvest Moon 2.9.20



Dear friends and Network Garden Collaborators.
I hope you and your friends and family are all doing well.

The last letter I sent out was a month or two ago!

It is hard to keep track of the time, a lot has happened in the world that has needed attention, it would be disingenuous to say otherwise. I had written letter upon letter, a whole plan that was due to be posted out early June in neat increments, which on each revisit and reflection since then became more and more weird and out of date. Honestly, the seeds may now be out of season- or I suppose they would keep for a year, for next spring, or you can see how germinating them now goes. I'll leave that to you to decide because there's something stagnant in the energy of me storing them without a future in mind.

I also have reflected more on what a garden network can be and what collective healing is and isn't. It isn't about science and books, but it is about relationships between people and plants. It offers more than it takes. I think the best thing I can do is offer what I have the resources for now, and invite responses. After a few letters more of you have joined in to receive these letters and seeds, but there hasn't perhaps been space created for a reciprocal element. I find myself wondering more about you than about the seeds and plants, about how to hold space for story telling, especially lost oral traditions, ancestral uses and disenfranchisement from labour, land and plant knowledge. When I started this it was all separate- eating (free) wild food, Hildegard von Bingen's soundtracks, finding out lost plant names, but it seems like there isn't time to keep these as projects, they are all more connected. So this is a bit all over the place, it's not 'writing', it's more of an honest hello.

I am writing this to you, in the spirit of opening back up a channel of availability, and of connecting herbalist practices with astrology and celestial events, writing this letter between the period of the Wyrth Moon and the Black New Moon, and the next approaching full moon - when this may reach you, given the postal system. On the wyrth moon, I made a visit to my local 'wyrth yard' I like to make use of now I'm back in London; the Brunel Museum in Rotherhithe, where the herbs are overflowing. This is a super abundant time for gathering up what has been sown. Wyrth is an archaic name for healing plant, which fits about right.

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I include a blank self addressed postcard here for you to respond, if you wish, about anything. Share a story, a personal memory, some information, a poem, drawing, thought, pressing... as a test. The postcard can be private between us or for sharing publicly- whatever public means for you right now and whatever you feel is appropriate.

I also have thought more about structures of networks. The nature of a mailing list is that I become a gatekeeper of sorts, which is also not collectively healing. There are no perfect ways of sharing reciprocal information in remote locations, being sensitive to the privacy of people's names and their region, but I'd like to offer that anything you want to send back I'll send back out again. This was what we share is the starting point for how we relate to an idea of a networked garden.



Before I get back to the plans I had- to send seeds for antiviral and mental health benefits, and to learn about Flax, I wanted to pause a little, get out a bit more, send some foraged herbs. Mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*), which I learnt only recently to identify, and suddenly I saw how abundant it is on walks by the train tracks in Deptford. I felt like it could offer something for this group- its good for protection, sleep, dreaming and menstrual health, though careful if you're pregnant and watch for any allergic reactions. I add a herbarium image of this in case it helps you spot it growing out and about. Now I've seen it, as with all foraging and herbalism, its everywhere and I can't miss it. Do any of you have a relationship to this herb?

The next full moon is September the 2nd, a harvest moon, more symbolic really, given I hardly managed to plant anything, so foraging is a really good fallback and wild herbs are free. I hope to pick some more mugwort while its supercharged with moon energy, something I've not done before, then the following full moon is October 1st- the Harvest Moon, after September 22nd's equinox. I've put note

in my calendar for things I can share with you, or as reminders to do something special.

If you have a practice of marking the full moon or coming equinox in any way, especially if it is herbal, I'd love to know, if you'd like to share.

If you want to chat more about foraging, say hi.

If you've had any success with past seeds, which ones? We can plan to make something in Autumn. What else have you been growing? Which green spaces have you been able to access?

Very best,
Rachel

Sent by Rachel Pimm, currently at: 63 Columbia Point, London SE16 7BG

The image for this letterhead is adapted from the illuminated frontispiece of *The Garden of Cyrus*, a 1658 book by Thomas Browne, on ancient and sacred geometries, and patterns of planting networks.