

# Garden Committee Report

## March 2022

### General Comments

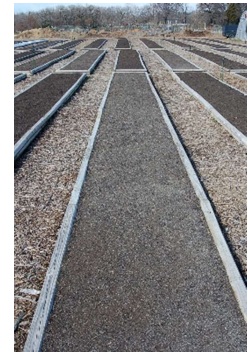
About 18 years ago I was talking to my grow-in superintendent of the golf course we developed. We were talking about “perfect” weather. We decided on a jacket in the morning, shorts and t-shirt in the afternoon. Yep, that’s just about perfect.

### Weather Report

Just got to love the weather this time of year. Cool mornings, we can jump right into some heavy work. Take layers off soon after. When it warms up, the hard work for the day is done, and it’s time to enjoy some of this perfect weather. It’s been cool enough in the morning that the greens don’t bolt, and warm enough in the afternoons that they grow well. Songbirds are singing. Things are beginning to hum along.

### Projects

Raised Beds: Got all our raised beds filled. That is, all that we can do. Two need filling yet but we must terminate the crops in them first. So, I’m calling the filling of the raised beds complete. Big job. Nice job. But best of all, done job.



Field 2 North In-Ground Beds: This is the same pic as last month, but this project isn’t in the same state. We’ve been able to build all the beds that we could, leaving gaps where necessary to allow for installation of the irrigation system. The result is 27 of the 39 are built. Outstanding! The twelve are coming soon, because...



We rented a trencher last Friday. Joe and

I spent 6 hours behind it. Was a beating, but nothing compared to trenching 1,000 feet by hand. Some of it was easy to dig, some was like concrete.

Then came Saturday. Big volunteer day. Had a crew installing the irrigation system. Until 1:00 pm they did the work, I fed them the parts. They kept me hopping trying to stay one step



ahead of them. Then, at 1:00 pm all the main line was in, part of the overhead laterals were in, and my volunteers went home. I needed to stay to make sure all the lines got installed before the rain system move in and filled up the trenches with mud or floated the lines. By the time I left (6:00pm), I was one worn out puppy, but the overhead half of the installation was complete, with the trenches mostly filled



in. Now the rain can come. Yet to do? We need to build the headers for the drip and install the drip irrigation lines. Then we can run the irrigation as either drip or overhead, depending on the crop grown. Very versatile, keeps options open.



Tunnel No. 1: In here is the only harvestable growth we have now. Been doing some small harvests of Asian cabbage, mustard greens, and radish. Bigger harvests to come soon.



Tunnel No. 2: This tunnel is now ready for planting. We're planning on planting cucumbers in here.



Timer Boxes: I'd talked about this project last month. We'd only set the poles. Although not yet complete, this is what the finished project looks like. We have yet to run the wire and relocate the timers into the boxes. Priorities shift as weather patterns and necessities require.



Command Center: Been getting a lot of people, new people, asking what "this" is. When I explain, they like it a bunch. I've already had some volunteers open it to look at the "Today's To-Do List." Excellent! Been waiting on a good day to paint it. Lots of those should be coming soon.

Onion Planting: Before all the winter weather set in, we'd planted a few raised beds with onion transplants we grew. Of course, the winter weather took its toll on the tender young plants, but not to the degree we'd thought we had observed. We bought some transplants from Dennis' Farm Store. When the weather broke, we got to planting. So we have 16 raised beds, 39 – 25' inground beds, and resorted to planting others out in Field 4. Dean did some quick math... 21,000 of 'em. That's a bunch of onions.



Potatoes: This year we're planting potatoes in two different places. The sock garden next to the



nursery, and out in Field 4.

That's taters galore.



## Volunteer Report

January 01 to March 31, 2021		
MONTH	HOURS	# Vol.
JANUARY 2021	1101.25	392
February 2021	682.0	239
March 2021	1359.5	462
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>3142.75</b>	<b>1093</b>

January 01 to March 17, 2022		
MONTH	HOURS	# Vol.
JANUARY 2022	701.75	254
February 2022	756.8	295
March 2022	648.5	268
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>2107</b>	<b>817</b>

67%      75%

These numbers are, well, disappointing. Last month they were 63% and 41% respectively, so we're trending upward. But this year's numbers are only for a partial month, as of the 17th. I'm not worried, I think it's just a reflection of the cooler weather we've had this year so far. I suspect by the end of the month we'll be quite comparable to last March numbers. I can say that we had a passel load out Saturday (19<sup>th</sup>). By a passel load, I mean 73. We had the Mormon elders and sisters, 4H kids and parents, mother/daughter and mother/son groups, TWU Honors, UNT Honors, Guyer Honors, Ryan Honors, a class from a Corinth school, and some of our regular Saturday volunteers. We've got groups coming out we had no idea were coming. Dean is quick on his toes in that regard. He had them all doing the Shiloh Field Garden Dance. The 4H kids did some fund raising and we had a presentation Saturday. They gave us lots of neat, and needed, stuff. Quality stuff too. More tools! *YEAH!*



## Harvest Report

January 01 to March 31, 2021		
MONTH	HARVEST TOTALS	EGGS
JANUARY 2021	725.0	63
February 2021	513.5	66
March 2021	1426.5	223
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>2665.0</b>	<b>352</b>

January 01 to March 17, 2022		
MONTH	HARVEST TOTALS	EGGS
JANUARY 2022	831.0	*****
February 2022	0	*****
March 2022	225.5	*****
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>1056.5</b>	<b>*****</b>

40%

There's the number for March, so far. It's not going to improve a whole bunch by the end of the month.

Here's the breakdown by veg. year-to-date.

PRODUCE	YEAR to DATE 2021	YEAR to DATE 2022
Asparagus	9.00	0.00
Beets	99.50	116.00
Bok Choy	6.00	0.00
Broccoli	73.75	0.00
Broccoli, Romanesco	21.50	0.00
Cabbage	196.00	0.00
Cabbage, Asian	553.00	61.00
Cabbage, Napa	0.00	64.00
Carrots	370.00	651.00
Cauliflower	59.25	0.00
Chard	78.00	0.00
Collard Greens	325.25	0.00
Lettuce Mix	166.00	0.00
Lettuce Romaine	62.50	0.00
Mustard	378.25	0.00
Mustard, Florida Broad Leaf	0.00	143.50
Onions, Bunching	231.50	0.00
Radish,	25.00	0.00
Radish, French Breakfast	0.00	21.00
Turnips, Purple Top	10.50	0.00
<b>Harvest Totals:</b>	<b>2665.0</b>	<b>1056.5</b>

### Final Comments

The three beds of carrots we planted long ago, the ones that I'd stated last month were just seedlings,



they're growing now. We've also planted six more beds, and they've started coming up. Lots of carrots. And that's not all. There are six empty beds in the first pic that are prepped for seeding. Six more



beds of carrots likely to be seeded this coming week.

Last month I told you that our tomato seeds had been planted. In the nursery, we didn't have a very good germination rate. The wild fluctuations in temperature had a lot to do with it. But Mr. and Mrs. Mills (plot gardeners) planted a bunch, so did Michael. We'll not be short on tomato plants.



Some other things have been planted too. Broccoli, cauliflower, Swiss chard, cabbages, collards, and lettuce. All coming along nicely. Ready to transplant soon.



Four rows of sugar snap peas have been planted and have come up. Won't produce much weight, but they'll be a tasty treat. Because Dean put a fence around them, they'll be a tasty treat for humans, not rabbits.

Well, spring time approaches. The weather warms, trees start leafing out, blooming things bloom, veggies start growing. It's a good time to be a gardener. It's also time for lake water to warm, crappie season commeth. Now that this report is done, where'd I put my fishing pole?

Cheers,

Doug