

Garden Committee Report

June 2022

Weather Report

Well, it's been a hot one so far. Found a website that said we had 9 100-degree days in 2020, and 8 in 2021. I have the very definite impression we beat both of those in the last week. Most days right now are two jug days.



This year's weather has not been so kind to us this year.

Projects

We only have two garden projects going right now.

Watering: The heat has us paying very close attention to watering. We're in the "keep the plants alive" mode. This is a real challenge with a residential water meter and a 14 ½ acre farm.

Weed Control: Ever heard this before? "Houston, we have a problem." If Shiloh Field has a problem, this has got to be the No. 1. The raised beds aren't too bad. The in-ground ones, yikes. I didn't take a pic to put here because... well... it was too embarrassing.

Virtual Garden Tour

Onions: The onions are done. We just need to finish getting them out of the ground and delivered.

Potatoes: We are in full harvest mode for the potatoes. Every harvest day we're taking up a few rows and getting them delivered.

Carrots: I'm learning something right now. Fertilizing carrots with Miracle Gro grows great carrot tops. Carrots? Not so much. Apparently, they require a more balanced fertilizer. So, lots of the carrots we're harvesting right now are undersized. Got some 20-20-20 early this week to start fertilizing the baby carrot beds properly.

Tomatoes: The tomatoes got away from us this year. In Tunnel No. 2, it was just one giant mound of tomato vegetation. Wasn't sure there



were even any tomatoes in there. Tim, our tomato guy, had gone on a three-week vacation. When he got back, he got to work. Grabbed a couple of



volunteers, and tied them, clipped them, restrained them and tamed them. Now you can see that tomato plants don't just produce vegetation. They produce tomatoes too!

Peppers: The peppers like this heat, as long as we can keep them watered. Last month I included this first pic. They've grown since then.



Some are starting to produce peppers. Nice!



Nursery: As I mentioned in the board work session, the nursery has a problem brewing. The creek bank behind it is eroding at an increasingly rapid rate. It isn't a problem yet, but it's going to be. We need to start planning on relocating it somewhere else, maybe behind the barn.

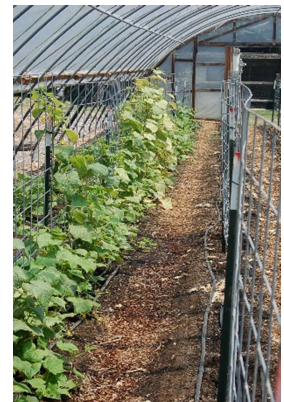
Green Beans: Last month I told you we're trying momentum bush beans. They've grown and done well so far. Was meeting with Clyde a couple of weeks ago. He says green beans shed their blooms in high heat. They're just at the budding stage. We'll see if he's right. I can report that they aren't real happy with these 100 degree days.

Blackberries: They're just about done this year. Time to prune, fertilize and get ready for next year.

Yellow and Zucchini Squash: Oh boy. Remember the second project right now? Weeding? This is where it's needed most. New area of in-ground beds, and a high weed seed bank equals lots of work. Hard work. Been adjusting the irrigation timers here a lot too.

Okra: No longer seedlings. They're growing about 18"-24" tall now, and beginning to put on flowers. Be picking soon. They love this Texas heat. As long as we keep them watered, they'll grow like weeds. We seem to grow them well, so that's a refreshing thought.

Cucumbers: Well, this is the second year we've grown the MiniMe and Manny cucumbers. The greenhouse ones, the ones that produce all female flowers. The



ones that produce those cute smaller cucumbers. These are the ones that require more perfect growing conditions. Once they get stressed at all, they get spider mites. Once they get spider mites, they're done. At least here they are. We've been forced to pull out the MiniMe cukes, and the Mannys are coming out soon. Dang it. Had higher hopes.

Volunteer Report

January 01 to June 30, 2021		
MONTH	HOURS	# Vol.
JANUARY 2021	1101.25	392
FEBRUARY 2021	682.0	239
MARCH 2021	1359.5	462
APRIL 2021	1154.5	409
MAY 2021	1048.5	309
JUNE 2021	1235.25	404
TOTALS:	6581.0	2215

January 01 to June 18, 2022		
MONTH	HOURS	# Vol.
JANUARY 2022	701.75	254
FEBRUARY 2022	756.8	295
MARCH 2022	1583.8	594
APRIL 2022	1448.5	564
MAY 2022	884.25	383
JUNE 2022	693	314
TOTALS:	6068.00	2404

92% 109%

Volunteerism at Shiloh Field continues to be strong. At least that's what the totals say. However, the monthly numbers are dropping off substantially compared to last year. Especially as it gets hotter this year. I don't have a thermometer at Shiloh. Not sure I want one. But I am sure that if it's 100 degrees on the Weatherbug app on my phone, it's hotter at Shiloh Field. No one, including me, enjoys it.

Harvest Report

January 01 to June 30, 2021		
MONTH	HARVEST TOTALS	EGGS
JANUARY 2021	725.0	63
FEBRUARY 2021	513.5	66
MARCH 2021	1318.25	223
APRIL 2021	3264.75	259
MAY 2021	9240.75	281
JUNE 2021	9220.0	234
TOTALS:	24282.25	1126

January 01 to June 18, 2022		
MONTH	HARVEST TOTALS	EGGS
JANUARY 2022	831.0	*****
FEBRUARY 2022	0	*****
MARCH 2022	1231.00	295
APRIL 2022	2043.75	*****
MAY 2022	3022.25	*****
JUNE 2022	6427.0	*****
TOTALS:	13555.00	1200

56% 107%

Remember last month's litany of depressing "d" words? Same this month, and probably the rest of the year. Fifty-six percent of last year! This wasn't supposed to be that kind of year. We can't afford that kind of year.

Veg. by Veg.

PRODUCE	YTD 2021	YTD 2022
Asparagus	9.00	0.00
Beets	1,195.25	603.25
Bitter Melon	0.00	260.50
Blackberries	944.50	287.75
Bok Choy	6.00	173.25
Broccoli	211.25	0.00
Broccoli, Romanesco	21.50	0.00
Brussel Sprouts	16.00	0.00
Cabbage	641.50	392.50
Cabbage, Asian	1,882.50	424.50
Cabbage, Napa	0.00	572.50
Carrots	2,364.75	1,628.00
Cauliflower	105.25	25.75
Chard	183.50	91.50
Collard Greens	451.25	0.00
Cucumbers	0.00	339.25
Cucumbers, Green Dragon	415.50	0.00
Cucumber, Manny	0.00	8.00
Cucumbers, Mini Me	495.00	543.75
Egg Plant	9.00	0.00
Leeks	24.00	0.00
Lettuce, Black Seeded Simpson	0.00	35.25
Lettuce, Butterhead	195.00	194.75
Lettuce Mix	501.00	0.00
Lettuce Romaine	756.00	658.50
Long Green Beans	21.50	0.00
Mustard	577.50	0.00
Mustard, Asian	0.00	301.50
Mustard, Florida Broadleaf	0.00	890.50
Mustard, Mizuna	0.00	105.25
Onions, Bunching	231.50	0.00
Onions, 1015	3,077.50	746.50
Onions, Texas Legend	4,976.50	1,317.00
Peas, Sugar Snap	2.00	126.75
Peppers, Anaheim	0.00	33.00
Peppers, Banana	171.50	0.00
Pepper, Bell	9.00	0.00
Pepper, Cubanelle	14.00	0.00
Pepper, Long Asian	150.00	0.00
Pepper, Jalapeno	37.00	0.00

Pepper, Poblano	164.50	0.00
Peppers, Serrano	11.00	0.00
Pok Choy	0.00	97.75
Potatoes, Irish	1,664.00	1,248.00
Potatoes, Red	578.00	575.75
Radish, Daikon	0.00	140.25
Radish, French Breakfast	665.50	713.25
Radish, White Icicle	0.00	165.75
Spinach	15.50	60.25
Squash, Yellow	470.00	454.00
Squash, Zucchini	412.00	337.00
Tomatoes	595.50	3.50
Turnips, Purple Top	10.50	0.00
Harvest Totals:	24,282.25	13,555.00

Not going to comment on the totals any further than what's already been reported. I'm already too disappointed and depressed about it. No point in making it worse.

Visitation Report

nThrive: On June 21st, we had a group from nThrive come out to the garden. It was something Nancy had put together. We had around fifty people come out from that group. We had them working all over the place. Most helped mulch walking paths in Field 1. Some built beds in the north of Field 2. Some went out in Field 4 to help Michael plant – something.

Lots were huddled around the ice water and the shade. It was hot, so that was strongly encouraged. It was a good time, indeed.



Final Comments

Well, its June in Texas. It's summer. And not surprisingly, its hot. Time to tighten up the belt to get to work. Work, that is with frequent water breaks, and shade breaks. Dean and I are trying our best to watch our volunteers and make sure they stay hydrated and take frequent breaks.

Cheers,

Doug