

Garden Committee Report

August 2022

Initial Comments

There's news! Rain - finally. At least for a while, the heat has broken. Things are looking up. It's time to think of our fall garden, and it's already being implemented.

And there's more good news... It always helps me to see and remember why we do what it is we do. Here's an example...

We serve people in need.



Projects

Tunnel Irrigation: I told you last month that we were installing one of these irrigation valve complexes at each of the two tunnels. This is done. No more wondering if the irrigation is on or off. It's only on now when the valve turns on.



Weed Control: Right now we're making a very concentrated effort on weed removal and control. I've got a section of the garden designated to be weeded every day we're open. It's going to take us a while to get it, but we'll make some progress every day.

Irrigation Risers: We've gotten away from this for a while, now making a return to it. We're replacing the risers in Fields 1 and 2 with something much more durable, workable and permanent.



Virtual Garden Tour

Potatoes: Dean and I have decided to give a fall crop of potatoes a try. He's done it in the past. He's got some on order, waiting on shipping right now. Got the sock garden all rowed up and waiting. Glad to have gotten this done before the rain set in and we couldn't get the tractor in there for some time.





Tomatoes: We're also giving tomatoes a second chance this fall. Got a bunch planted in Tunnel No. 2, and in Field 1 North. Hopefully they'll do better than the summer ones did.

Peppers: It's amazing what a little rain can do. We got that half inch of rain 10 or so days ago. Within a couple of days, the peppers perked up, put on new foliage, and started to bloom. Now we have more rain coming... keep on growing, blooming and producing, that's an order!



Yellow and Zucchini Squash: Got some promise here. Michael has a bunch planted and producing in



Field 4, and I've got a bunch more in Field 2 North in the 100' in-ground beds. Here's some pics of the Field 2 plants. I really like the looks of all those yellow squash. One benefit of growing squash in the fall is... the squash bugs aren't nearly as bad, or so I'm told. So far so good, I haven't seen one in the whole bunch.

Cucumbers: This was the pic from last month. What a change a month can make. These are just at the



edge of being harvestable. I'm personally taking care of these. I'm maintaining them as a single stem, as opposed to allowing multi-stems in the past. Testing the theory that, if I control the amount of growth above ground, the roots will be better able to keep up. This way the plant doesn't get so stressed and send out the dinner bell to the bugs. Seems to be working so far. More about ready to be transplanted to back them up.

Eggplant: These are two pics comparing last month's eggplant vs. this month. They're really happy



where they are, and hardly a bug on them. They're producing great big and beautiful fruit. They're planted in Tunnel No. 1. That's where the bitter melon is planted. Last month I reported that the bugs didn't even like the bitter melon. I just wonder if the



scent of the bitter melon is masking the scent of the eggplant and repelling insects. Hmm.

I said they were purdy, can I call it or what? Shout out to the Texas A&M Aggies with an eggplant gig'em.



Bitter Melon: So I told you about bitter melon last month. So far, we've received \$200.00 in cash donations from the places Michael takes it. I'm glad to see they like it. Now they want the leaves to make a tea out of. There's plenty to take 'em. This stuff just grows and grows. We planted one row, now it's taken over the next two.



Green Beans: We've planted a fall round of oriental yard long green beans. They love the heat and will do well until it gets cooler and we plant sugar snap peas. They're in bud and starting to produce beans now. First harvest was yesterday.

Fall Crop Planting: This is a representative pic of the beginning of fall planting. We've planted three types of radish, one turnip bed, one beets, two types of mustard greens, and four beds of lettuce. Two weeks from now, we'll do it again, and a third succession after that.



| 2022 Fall Planning | 1st Planting | 2nd Planting | 3rd Planting |
|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Turnip | 1/2-48 | 1/2-48 | 1/2-48 |
| Mustard Greens | | | |
| Florida Broadleaf | 1 1/2-48 | 1 1/2-48 | |
| Mizuna | 1 1/2-48 | 1 1/2-48 | |
| Collard Greens | 3-48 | | |
| Broccoli | 2-48 | 2-48 | 2-48 |
| Cabbage | | | |
| Napa | 1-72 | 1-72 | |
| Round | 4/48 | 4/48 | |
| Cauliflower | 1-48 | 1-48 | 1-48 |
| Onion | 1,000/tray in Nursery | | |
| Bunching Onion | 2-48 | | |
| Beets | 3-48 | 3-48 | |
| Radish | | | |
| Diakon | | | |
| French Breakfast | 1 1/2-48 | 1 1/2-48 | 1 1/2-48 |
| Round | | | |
| Lettuce | | | |
| Romaine | In 100' beds Field 2 North | | |
| Salanova | | | |
| Salad Bowl | | | |
| Muir | | | |
| Buttercrunch | | | |
| Spinach | 2-48 | 2-48 | 2-48 |
| Elephant Garlic | | | 1-48 |
| Swiss Chard | 1-32 | | |
| Bok/Pok Choy | 1-48 | 1-48 | 1-48 |
| Green Beans | 3-72 | 3-72 | |
| Sugar Snap Peas | 4-50' Hoops | | |

So, do we have a plan going into the fall of how much of what vegetable to plant? Yes we do. It's not pretty, but it's more than we've ever had before [The cells tell you how many of what length bed].

Volunteer Report

| January 01 to August 31, 2021 | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| MONTH | HOURS | # Vol. |
| JANUARY 2021 | 1,101.25 | 392 |
| FEBRUARY 2021 | 682.00 | 239 |
| MARCH 2021 | 1,359.50 | 462 |
| APRIL 2021 | 1,154.50 | 409 |
| MAY 2021 | 1,048.50 | 309 |
| JUNE 2021 | 1,235.25 | 404 |
| JULY 2021 | 1,205.00 | 475 |
| AUGUST 2021 | 1,156.00 | 536 |
| TOTALS: | 8,942.00 | 3226 |

| January 01 to August 18, 2022 | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| MONTH | HOURS | # Vol. |
| JANUARY 2022 | 701.75 | 254 |
| FEBRUARY 2022 | 756.75 | 295 |
| MARCH 2022 | 1,583.75 | 594 |
| APRIL 2022 | 1,448.50 | 564 |
| MAY 2022 | 884.25 | 383 |
| JUNE 2022 | 1,096.75 | 460 |
| JULY 2022 | 1,195.25 | 495 |
| AUGUST 2022 | 666.50 | 264 |
| TOTALS: | 8,333.50 | 3309 |

93% 103%

Given the heat we've had in recent weeks, I'm proud to report that volunteerism is pretty much the same as last year. We have a few more volunteers, who are not staying quite as long as last year. School is about to kick in, and the college kids will be back in town. We have 60 UNT TAMS kids coming Friday, and 20 TWU students coming Saturday.

Oh, and there's more good news to report here. We have a new volunteer named Linda. She was getting the tour and the Shiloh Field story, when she said "I'm a recipient of the food you produce. I just had to come, find out, help and learn from the place that's helped me so much." It's always nice to meet a Linda.

Harvest Report

| January 01 to August 31, 2021 | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| MONTH | HARVEST TOTALS | EGGS |
| JANUARY 2021 | 725.00 | 63 |
| FEBRUARY 2021 | 513.50 | 66 |
| MARCH 2021 | 1,318.25 | 223 |
| APRIL 2021 | 3,264.75 | 259 |
| MAY 2021 | 9,240.75 | 281 |
| JUNE 2021 | 9,220.00 | 234 |
| JULY 2021 | 10,650.00 | 202 |
| AUGUST 2021 | 7,817.00 | 160 |
| TOTALS: | 42,749.25 | 1488 |

| January 01 to August 18, 2022 | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|--------|
| MONTH | HOURS | # Vol. |
| JANUARY 2022 | 831.00 | ***** |
| FEBRUARY 2022 | 0.00 | ***** |
| MARCH 2022 | 1,231.00 | 295 |
| APRIL 2022 | 2,043.75 | ***** |
| MAY 2022 | 3,022.25 | ***** |
| JUNE 2022 | 8,877.25 | ***** |
| JULY 2022 | 3,588.25 | ***** |
| AUGUST 2022 | 2,001.25 | ***** |
| TOTALS: | 21,594.75 | |

51% 0%

Last month I said “My how times change. Three years ago we’d have looked at 18,774 lbs. in July as a major accomplishment. Today it’s disappointing.” I guess that’s what you get when you measure against the best you’ve ever done. So, I’ll stop complaining about this year and just rejoice that we were fortunate enough to do so well last year. There’s always hope for next year too.

Veg. by Veg.

| January 01 to August 18, 2022 | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------|
| PRODUCE | YTD 2021 | YTD 2022 |
| Asparagus | 9.00 | 0.00 |
| Beets | 1,195.25 | 603.25 |
| Bitter Melon | 0.00 | 1,184.50 |
| Blackberries | 1,365.00 | 310.25 |
| Bok Choy | 6.00 | 173.25 |
| Broccoli | 211.25 | 0.00 |
| Broccoli, Romanesco | 21.50 | 0.00 |
| Brussel Sprouts | 16.00 | 0.00 |
| Cabbage | 642.50 | 392.50 |
| Cabbage, Asian | 1,882.50 | 424.50 |
| Cabbage, Napa | 0.00 | 572.50 |
| Carrots | 2,623.75 | 1,677.00 |
| Cantaloupe | 2,133.00 | 0.00 |
| Cauliflower | 105.25 | 25.75 |
| Chard | 228.00 | 188.25 |
| Collard Greens | 451.25 | 0.00 |
| Cucumbers | 0.00 | 956.75 |
| Cucumbers, Green Dragon | 1,769.00 | 0.00 |
| Cucumber, Manny | 0.00 | 8.00 |
| Cucumbers, MiniMe | 495.00 | 543.75 |
| Eggplant | 889.50 | 499.75 |
| 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 | 63.00 | 0.00 |
| Mustard | 577.50 | 0.00 |
| Mustard, Asian | 0.00 | 301.50 |
| Mustard. Florida Broad Leaf | 0.00 | 890.50 |
| Mustard, Mizuna | 0.00 | 105.25 |
| Okra | 1,020.00 | 177.00 |
| Onions, Bunching | 231.50 | 0.00 |
| Onions, 1015 | 5,415.50 | 746.50 |
| Onions, Texas Legend | 4,976.50 | 2,075.50 |
| Pears | 212.00 | 604.75 |
| Peas, Sugar Snap | 2.00 | 126.75 |
| Peppers, Anaheim | 0.00 | 64.00 |
| Peppers, Banana | 899.00 | 192.75 |
| Pepper, Bell | 752.50 | 172.00 |
| Pepper, Cayenne | 0.00 | 7.00 |
| Pepper, Chili | 437.00 | 67.00 |
| Pepper, Cubanelle | 204.00 | 51.00 |
| Pepper, Long Asian | 315.00 | 0.00 |
| Pepper, Jalapeno | 292.00 | 54.75 |
| Pepper, Pepperoncini | 43.50 | 0.00 |
| Pepper, Poblano | 732.50 | 32.75 |
| Peppers, Serrano | 171.00 | 31.00 |
| Pepper, Shishito | 12.00 | 0.00 |
| Pok Choy | 0.00 | 97.75 |
| Potatoes, Irish | 1,999.00 | 1,752.25 |
| Potatoes, Red | 1,765.00 | 904.75 |
| Radish, Daikon | 0.00 | 140.25 |
| Radish, French Breakfast | 665.50 | 713.25 |
| Radish, White Icicle | 0.00 | 195.25 |
| Spinach | 15.50 | 60.25 |
| Squash, Butternut | 144.00 | 74.00 |
| Squash, Pumpkin | 0.00 | 4.25 |
| Squash, Yellow | 1,026.50 | 1,674.00 |
| Squash, Zucchini | 755.00 | 662.50 |
| Tomatoes | 3,470.50 | 1,037.25 |
| Turnips, Purple Top | 10.50 | 0.00 |
| Watermelon | 1,021.50 | 130.50 |
| Totals: | 42,749.25 | 21,594.75 |

Not a whole lot to brag about here. I am glad to see we're doing better than last year where we are. Really cold winters, a very short springs, and a really hot summer has not bode well for the garden.

Visitation Report

Carrollton Master Gardner(s): Sherri came from Carrollton, along with some of her cohorts. They got the tour, introduction into some of the tools we use. Had a really nice Q&A afterwards.

Final Comments

As you all know, we got a little rain last week. It was a really welcome sight at Shiloh Field. God is a good god who leaves us little reminders of the blessings he bestows on us. Sometimes, all we have to do is open our eyes to see them. Rain plus wood chips equals...



Cheers,

Doug