

Garden Committee Report

September 2022

Initial Comments

It's amazing to see what happens when the hot weather breaks, even for a short while, even only by 5 or 7 degrees, and you get some rain. The garden responded, and so did we. How you ask? Let's have a look.

Projects

Irrigation Risers: This ongoing project has been more than a little larger than I thought. It's taking quite a while longer than anticipated, but I think it will be finished in a Saturday or two. I'm sure John and Finn would like to move on to something new, maybe just to help in the garden.



Barn Shelving: Every once in a while I'll look for something on a shelf in the



barn. It's not where it's supposed to be. No one knows where "it" is. Eventually, we look on the floor underneath the shelving and find it there. Behind our shelves, between the wall studs is a gap where things can get knocked to and they fall to the floor. Kind of frustrating. So, we took a Saturday break from the irrigation riser project to add shelf backing inside the barn to keep this from happening. Everything has a place, and now we can better keep it in its place. Waferboard donated by Serve

Denton. Thanks Pat!

Virtual Garden Tour

Potatoes: I'd reported last month that we were going to try fall potatoes. They got planted three Saturdays ago. They haven't come up yet, but we have hopes.



Tomatoes: Pics from last month to this month. Big difference. Got some tomatoes too. Couple are



Pic 1-Last month.

Pic 2-Field tomatoes, 4' tall.

Pic 3-Tunnel tomatoes, 7' tall.

Pic 4-Coming soon.

turning red now. Also notice the difference in the size of the plants in the tunnel vs. out in the field. Now just imagine greenhouse tomatoes...

Peppers: The rain and cooler weather of the last month did our peppers some good. They kicked into



Pic 1-Heavy laden w fruit, lying on the ground. Pic 2-Same, easier to see. Pic 3-Bell pepper. Pic 4-Banana pepper.

production mode, and the harvest totals have begun to reflect it. Some of these pepper plants are so laden with fruit they've laid over on the ground. I guess that'll be their position till first freeze.

Yellow and Zucchini Squash: Last month I said "Got some promise here." Oh boy, was that a prediction



Pic 1-Last month.

Pic 2-Yesterday.

Pic 3-Green crowns.

or what! We've been swimming in yellow and zucchini squash. Why? How? Cooler weather, rain, and the fact that fall is a time of reduced squash bug pressure, or so I was told. Apparently, there's some truth to that. Haven't hardly seen a squash bug in the bunch. Aphids, on the other hand... is a whole other problem. The field used up all the nitrogen in the soil, so I had to add more, a little late, of course. Apparently, the old leaves aren't going to green up, but you can see the crowns are healthy, growing, and blooms are next.

Cucumbers: This was a project of mine that I told you about last month. Well, it didn't go so well, at



least not as well as I had hoped. The cucumbers grew "better," but didn't produce much more heavily. Perhaps it was a variety issue, as these were Stonewall cukes and I'm mentally comparing to Mongoose. Dean and I both like Mongoose much better. They are darker, more uniform in size and shape. I guess I'll have to try Mongoose next year. But the trellised cukes were much easier to maintain, harvest, spray, etc. I do

like them trellised. The reason these look so bad is cucumber plants live about 70 days. Their time is about up.

Eggplant: The harvest totals are going to tell you that we're having a reasonable year in eggplant. But that's only half the story. This year we only have two rows in Tunnel No. 1, about 180 row feet. Last year we had six 50 foot beds, two rows each, or nearly 600 row feet. The eggplant really like the tunnel. Note to self for next year. Eggplant can be a perennial, and 'they' say second year fruit is the best. I might talk to Dean about cutting them back and overwintering them in place. We'll see.



Bitter Melon: This is a gift that just keeps on giving. Every Saturday we harvest 3-4 bins, Michael takes them to their destination, and he keeps bringing back a little cash donation almost every time. Chaching!

Oriental Yard Long Green Beans: These have done unexpectedly well, as you can see from the totals. We've done a much better job of harvesting them this year. If you keep the beans from maturing, the plants keep producing. And producing they are... to the tune of three times last year's production. People smile as they walk through to harvest and the beans are 'right there' in their face.



Carrots: Today, John and I flipped these six beds, and planted Napoli carrots with the Jang seeder. They're a 55-day carrot, so they should be harvestable around thanksgiving. I'll back that up later this week and early next month with nine beds of Bolero carrots, they're a 75-day carrot. They'll be our winter/early spring carrots, if all goes well.

Fall Crop Planting: We started this the cool week of August. That turned out to be more than a little



French Breakfast Radish



Mizuna Mustard



Beets-almost there



coming up.

early. As you know, it got hot again, and lots of seeded things didn't come up. The soil was still too warm. But we got several varieties of radish and mustard to come up, some of it we were able to get harvested before they got too hot (spicy). Some lettuce germinated, but it's just sitting in the ground not growing much. Very spotty. Again, soil too hot. Perhaps with the cold front this week it will find its call to action. Tim planted spinach a few days ago, and its already

Cushaw Squash: Back in 2018, one of the first things Gene Gumfory requested I do was to plant come cushaw squash. Never had heard of them before, so I Googled them. They did so so that year. I don't recall planting them since. We've talked about it, but never got around to it. This year I made sure it got done. Two 48' beds, single row down the middle. We've been watching them, and Saturday was harvest day. 729.5 pounds! Now that's a haul.



Watermelon: Joe and Bruce, two of our permateers, planted some watermelon out in Field 3. They've been eyeing them for weeks (and they aren't the only ones). Joe planted some Crimson Sweets. Here's a pic of two he harvested today. A 32 and a 25 pounder. Bruce ate one, said it was scrumptious. That at least looks right.

Volunteer Report

January 01 to September 30, 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
SEPTEMBER 2021	1,279.25	612
TOTALS:	10,221.25	3,838.00

January 01 to September 22, 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	1,022.25	404
SEPTEMBER 2022	1,135.50	400
TOTALS:	9,824.75	3,849.00

96%

100%

Volunteerism continues to be strong, though flat to last year. As was expected, when school started again, school groups started booking days to come volunteer. Who came, you ask? To name a few, several TWU groups, including TAMS (couple times), Helping Hands (TWU), Helping Hands (UNT), TWU Honors and Eta Sigma Alpha all came. High school students came from Ryan, Guyer and Denton High Schools.



Businesses got involved, Pet Smart, Home Depot came. Home Depot got teamed up with Bruce (tractor driver) and mulched some paths – did a real nice job. They also brought us some hand clippers



and a couple of orange buckets to harvest with. Much needed hand clippers.

Also, mother/sons, mother/daughters, the Master Gardeners, JustServe, the Latter-day Saints Elders and Sisters, and scores of familiar faces that aren't with a group, but just come out to have fun.

Harvest Report

January 01 to September 30, 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
SEPTEMBER 2021	3,500.50	224
TOTALS:	46,249.75	1712

January 01 to September 22, 2022		
MONTH	HARVEST TOTALS	EGGS
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	3,801.50	****
SEPTEMBER 2022	8,791.50	****
TOTALS:	32,186.50	****

70%

Last month the total percent to last year was 51 percent of last year. As you can see, that's changed this month. As of Saturday's harvest, we're over 10,000 lbs. this month, and still growing, I mean going.

Veg. by Veg.

January 01 to September 22, 2022		
PRODUCE:	YTD 2021	YTD 2022
Asparagus	9.00	0.00
Beets	1,195.25	603.25
Bitter Melon	0.00	2,192.00

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	2,738.25	1,677.00
Cantaloupe	2,579.00	0.00
Cauliflower	105.25	25.75
Chard	349.00	188.25
Collard Greens	451.25	0.00
Cucumbers	0.00	1,410.25
Cucumbers, Green Dragon	2,036.00	0.00
Cucumber, Manny	0.00	8.00
Cucumbers, MiniMe	495.00	543.75
Egg Plant	1,111.00	1,376.25
Egg Plant, Fairytale	0.00	15.50
Gourd, Cushaw	0.00	54.00
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	110.50	306.75
Mustard	577.50	0.00
Mustard, Asian	0.00	301.50
Mustard, Florida Broadleaf	0.00	945.50
Mustard, Mizuna	0.00	250.00
Okra	1,929.50	443.50
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	1,149.00	265.50
Pepper, Bell	1,078.00	249.25
Pepper, Cayenne	0.00	7.00
Pepper, Chile	587.50	70.00
Pepper, Cubanelle	280.00	58.50
Pepper, Long Asian	402.00	0.00

Pepper, Habanero	0.00	0.00
Pepper, Jalapeno	385.00	54.75
Pepper, Pepperoncini	72.00	0.00
Pepper, Poblano	879.50	32.75
Peppers, Serrano	222.50	31.00
Pepper, Shishito	43.50	0.00
Pok Choy	0.00	97.75
Potatoes, Irish	2,019.00	1,752.25
Potatoes, Red	1,765.00	904.75
Radish, Daikon	0.00	140.25
Radish, French Breakfast	665.50	816.25
Radish, White Icicle	0.00	195.25
Spinach	15.50	60.25
Squash, Butternut	167.00	141.00
Squash, Pumpkin	0.00	4.25
Squash, Yellow	1,061.00	4,969.00
Squash, Zucchini	810.50	3,217.00
Tomatoes	3,470.50	1,037.25
Turnips, Purple Top	10.50	0.00
Watermelon	1,021.50	1,362.25
Totals:	46,249.75	32,186.50

I remember thinking last year that we did real poorly with our squash, and that needs to be a strong point for 2022. As you can see from the totals above, that happened. What I was told was 2020 was the best we'd ever done with squash – 5,751.5 pounds. This year we've topped that with 8,186 pounds. Nice! That kind of success can cause a problem. So far, we've been able to give it all away, but I'd say we saturated the market. I wouldn't have wanted to find a home for much more than what we have harvested.

Visitation Report

Flower Mound Garden Club: This group of really nice and excited ladies came out to the garden Monday for a tour. Boy, did they have a good time. They soaked up what I had to say, asked lots of really great questions, and absorbed the answers. I think a good time was had by all!

Whispers in the Wind

I'll start this chapter of the report with this statement. I don't know if what I heard is true, but it is true that this is what I heard.

Dean and I have been asked several times "How has the weather affected the garden this year?" Up until this month, we've answered that we're harvesting about half of what we did last year. Then we overhear ensuing conversations where people say "'Such-and-such' garden/farm said they are growing 70 percent less than last year." Or "...only 30 percent of last year." Once I heard, "... so these guys must really know what they are doing."

I disagree, it's just another example of God's favorable hand upon Shiloh Field.

Final Comments



This pic is a representation of a once-in-a-while benefit of volunteering at Shiloh Field. Tim, one of our permateers, made some squash bread before he came to the garden Saturday. This is me enjoying a piece. Still warm - yummy! Tim, you can do that any day you want! I saw him grab a bag full today, here's to hoping!

So yesterday morning when I took the dogs outside before leaving for the garden, I'd noticed the cooler weather, smiled, and thought I'd drive to the garden without air conditioning and have the windows down. I got about a block down the road and rolled them up. Today I started the 59 degree morning with a flannel shirt – still shivered. Times are a-changin!

The 10 day forecast has the highs in the mid to upper 80s. Lows in the 50s. NICE! Time to seed a bunch of carrots.

Cheers,

Doug