

Garden Committee Report

November 2022

Initial Comments

Been a cloudy, cold and rainy month. The summer garden is gone by way of frosts and several light freezes. The fall garden is mostly harvested, bitten by the same low temps. But as was the case last month, the weather being that way doesn't mean we're having a bad month. Actually, its been a good month. Lets have a look.



Do this...



...before you get
this

Projects

Fertigation: This project is on hold. Why? One word - mud.



Blackberry War Zone: Last month I'd reported we'd established a beach head and were moving inland. I'm happy to say the war is over, our side won! Now it's just a mop-up operation. Time to rake up the dead leaves and mulch the area.

Operation Seal'em Up: As all this cooler weather was rolling in, John and Finn went around and sealed up the three high tunnels to keep the warm air in, and the cold air out. Used some wiggle wire to anchor the ends of the roll-up sides, and lots of clear gorilla tape to patch holes.

Virtual Garden Tour

Tomatoes: There is something that I've noticed this year. I think I saw it last year but didn't really take notice of it. There's a big difference in the quality of the tomatoes grown in the tunnel vs. out in the field. Unfortunately, I can't take a photo for you, as all the field tomatoes are delivered. The appearance of the tunnel tomatoes is much nicer. They don't crack nearly as much, as irregular



watering (rain) causes them to split. The birds and bugs can ravage field tomatoes. Our tunnels aren't closed, so it happens there too, but to a much lesser degree. I'd say the quality of the tunnel tomatoes harvested are about 60% firsts, 20% seconds. Field tomatoes are about 20% firsts, 20% seconds, and the rest below that. Direct summer sun



can scorch field tomatoes as opposed to those grown in a tunnel with protection from the direct sun. I say all this as a lead-in to "I can't wait for funding for greenhouses." So, the field tomatoes are gone, the tunnel tomatoes got singed on the tips, but are still ripening. There's a fungus amongus in the tomato tunnel though. They're starting to look really sad, and we may have to take them out soon.



Frost/Freeze Kill: So here's a representative pic of one of the things you do before a killing freeze. Harvest what you can, pull the rest, haul it off and clean it up. The peppers, squash, green beans, cucumbers, romaine lettuce, bitter melon and cabbage are harvested, delivered, and beds cleaned out. Lots of bed prep for spring left to do. We've trimmed back the eggplant and hoping they can survive the winter in the tunnel. Eggplant is a perennial and Dean says they fruit is best on the second-year growth. Most of the radish has been harvested, with remaining stragglers

getting harvested before the next freeze.



Carrots: The pic on the left is the Bolero carrots. They are a little thin as the seeds are much larger, so I'll have to experiment with a larger roller in the Jang seeder. The Napoli (planted several weeks earlier) on the right



are coming along nicely, that is if I can keep the rabbits from eating the leaves. Pesky wabbits.

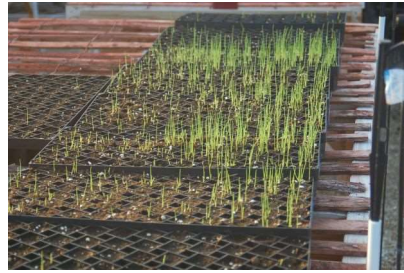
Cole Crops: The cole crops are maturing. We've been harvesting broccoli; some are on the second round of flowerets. The cauliflower has begun to set heads, finally. Entire beds of cabbage have been harvested, those planted later are coming into their own.



Nursery Starts: We're well into seeding for the beginning of 2023.



Beets



Onions



Field Onions

- Beets: We've been trying to direct seed beets into some beds all month, but the soil in the beds is so waterlogged we can't get it done. So, we started some in flats in the nursery.
- Lettuce: We've started 24 flats of salanova lettuce. We noticed in the brutal February 2021 snowmageddon that the salanova lettuce survived outside without any frost cloth and with no damage. We're anxious to get it growing.
- Broccoli: Since our broccoli is playing out, it's time to start some more.
- Cabbage: Same with the cabbage. We're trying a new variety, copenhagen.
- Onions: Got a lot started, not growing very much with the cold nights we've been having. The onions got a slow start last year too. We'll see how they do. There's a reason Dixondale Farms (large onion set grower) is located in the San Antonio area.



Greens



Lettuce

Volunteer Report

| January 01 to November 30, 2021 | | |
|---------------------------------|---------|--------|
| MONTH | HOURS | # Vol. |
| JANUARY 2021 | 1101.25 | 392 |
| FEBRUARY 2021 | 682.00 | 239 |
| MARCH 2021 | 1359.50 | 462 |
| APRIL 2021 | 1154.50 | 409 |
| MAY 2021 | 1048.50 | 309 |
| JUNE 2021 | 1235.25 | 404 |
| JULY 2021 | 1205.00 | 475 |
| AUGUST 2021 | 1156.00 | 536 |

| January 01 to November 22, 2022 | | |
|---------------------------------|---------|--------|
| MONTH | HOURS | # Vol. |
| JANUARY 2022 | 701.75 | 254 |
| FEBRUARY 2022 | 756.75 | 295 |
| MARCH 2022 | 1583.75 | 594 |
| APRIL 2022 | 1448.50 | 564 |
| MAY 2022 | 884.25 | 383 |
| JUNE 2022 | 1096.75 | 460 |
| JULY 2022 | 1195.25 | 495 |
| AUGUST 2022 | 1022.25 | 404 |

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| SEPTEMBER 2021 | 1279.25 | 612 |
| OCTOBER 2021 | 1614.00 | 633 |
| NOVEMBER 2021 | 1145.50 | 486 |
| TOTALS: | 11835.25 | 4957 |

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| SEPTEMBER 2022 | 1501.00 | 534 |
| OCTOBER 2022 | 1569.75 | 612 |
| NOVEMBER 2022 | 1048.25 | 383 |
| TOTALS: | 12808.25 | 4978 |

108% 100%

Similar report as last month, we're tracking the same number of volunteers as last year. What's nice to see is the hours are now up above last year's numbers. It's impressive to see the folks come out to help in the garden. One particular Saturday it was a cold and dank, bone chilling stuff, and there were 30 volunteers working in the garden. Working hard to stay warm too. As the day ended, I'd bet I heard the comment at least ten times "Wow, what a good day. We got a lot done?" I said "yep" and "thanks" a lot that day. Said it a lot all month.

Harvest Report

| January 01 to November 30, 2021 | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| MONTH | HARVEST TOTALS | EGGS |
| JANUARY 2021 | 725.00 | 63 |
| FEBRUARY 2021 | 513.50 | 66 |
| MARCH 2021 | 1318.25 | 223 |
| APRIL 2021 | 3264.75 | 259 |
| MAY 2021 | 9240.75 | 281 |
| JUNE 2021 | 9220.00 | 234 |
| JULY 2021 | 10650.00 | 202 |
| AUGUST 2021 | 7817.00 | 160 |
| SEPTEMBER 2021 | 3500.50 | 224 |
| OCTOBER 2021 | 3379.00 | ***** |
| NOVEMBER 2021 | 3383.00 | ***** |
| TOTALS: | 53011.75 | 1712 |

| January 01 to November 22, 2022 | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| MONTH | HARVEST TOTALS | EGGS |
| JANUARY 2022 | 831.00 | ***** |
| FEBRUARY 2022 | 0.00 | ***** |
| MARCH 2022 | 1231.00 | 295 |
| APRIL 2022 | 2043.75 | ***** |
| MAY 2022 | 3022.25 | ***** |
| JUNE 2022 | 8877.25 | ***** |
| JULY 2022 | 3588.25 | ***** |
| AUGUST 2022 | 3801.50 | ***** |
| SEPTEMBER 2022 | 11745.25 | ***** |
| OCTOBER 2022 | 11300.75 | ***** |
| NOVEMBER 2022 | 6731.50 | ***** |
| TOTALS: | 53172.50 | ***** |

100%

Who would have thought, especially at the end of August, that we'd be where we are. We're 160 lbs. over last year's November YTD number, with three harvests to go yet this month. Simply amazing – our God is a Great and Mighty God. To him goes all the credit. We're just tools he uses to do great and mighty things.

Veg. by Veg.

| January 01 to November 22, 2022 | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|----------|
| PRODUCE | YTD 2021 | YTD 2022 |
| Asparagus | 9.00 | 0.00 |
| Beets | 1,195.25 | 810.75 |
| Bitter Melon | 0.00 | 2,934.75 |
| Blackberries | 1,365.00 | 310.25 |
| Bok Choy | 6.00 | 436.25 |
| Broccoli | 211.25 | 18.00 |
| Broccoli, Romanesco | 21.50 | 0.00 |
| Brussel Sprouts | 16.00 | 0.00 |
| Cabbage | 642.50 | 852.75 |
| Cabbage, Asian | 1,882.50 | 505.50 |
| Cabbage, Napa | 0.00 | 837.00 |
| Cantaloupe | 2,784.50 | 1,677.00 |
| Carrots | 2,750.25 | 394.75 |
| Cauliflower | 105.25 | 25.75 |
| Chard | 583.00 | 188.25 |
| Collard Greens | 451.25 | 310.25 |
| Cucumbers | 0.00 | 1,568.50 |
| Cucumbers, Green Dragon | 2,036.00 | 0.00 |
| Cucumber, Manny | 0.00 | 8.00 |
| Cucumbers, MiniMe | 495.00 | 543.75 |
| Egg Plant | 1,400.00 | 1,846.00 |
| Egg Plant, Fairy Tale | 0.00 | 15.50 |
| Gourd, Cushaw | 0.00 | 783.50 |
| Leeks | 24.00 | 0.00 |
| Lettuce, Black Seeded Simpson | 0.00 | 35.25 |
| Lettuce, Butterhead | 204.00 | 247.25 |
| Lettuce, Mix | 566.50 | 0.00 |
| Lettuce, Romaine | 818.00 | 913.00 |
| Long Green Beans | 115.50 | 517.75 |
| Mustard | 577.50 | 0.00 |
| Mustard, Asian | 0.00 | 301.50 |
| Mustard, Florida Broadleaf | 255.00 | 1,889.00 |
| Mustard, Mizuna | 546.00 | 496.25 |
| Okra | 2,550.50 | 773.75 |
| 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 | 1,714.50 | 893.50 |
| Pepper, Bell | 2,308.50 | 1,194.50 |
| Pepper, Cayenne | 0.00 | 7.00 |
| Pepper, Chili | 1,088.50 | 508.50 |
| Pepper, Cubanelle | 722.00 | 353.00 |
| Pepper, Long Asian | 464.50 | 0.00 |
| Pepper, Jalapeno | 626.50 | 794.75 |
| Pepper, Pepperoncini | 116.00 | 0.00 |
| Pepper, Poblano | 1,190.50 | 621.50 |
| Peppers, Serrano | 339.00 | 306.00 |
| 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 |
| Pumpkin | 57.00 | 0.00 |
| Radish, Daikon | 0.00 | 771.00 |
| Radish, French Breakfast | 954.50 | 1,041.25 |
| Radish, German Giant | 467.50 | 0.00 |
| Radish, Korean | 0.00 | 289.75 |
| Radish, White Icicle | 0.00 | 518.25 |
| Spinach | 15.50 | 73.25 |
| Squash, Butternut | 295.00 | 286.50 |
| Squash, Pumpkin | 0.00 | 70.25 |
| Squash, Yellow | 1,063.00 | 6,179.00 |
| Squash, Zucchini | 810.50 | 6,558.25 |
| Tomatoes | 3,470.50 | 2,800.50 |
| Turnips, Purple Top | 10.50 | 354.75 |
| Watermelon | 1,021.50 | 3,938.50 |
| Totals: | 53,011.75 | 53,172.50 |

Visitation Report

Toyota: On 10/29 Toyota employees came out on a cool, dreary, dank day to brighten Shiloh Field with a visit and to help with the days harvest. Their task of that day was to spend most of their time in the peppers. Here's a pic of their haul. That's a lot of peppers!

KHA Consulting: Got some time for a God story? Yes? Good! I like tellin 'em just as much as I like watching them happen. Hopefully as much as you like hearing 'em.



On Monday, November 7th, Dean and I conversed about the upcoming forecast. There was freezing temperatures scheduled for Saturday and Sunday morning. So we concluded that we needed to get a bunch of stuff out of the garden beforehand. That included the peppers and the field tomatoes – they'd be mush on Saturday. So on Tuesday we, about 6 or 7 of us (that was everyone), got started on the peppers. We got only 3 ½ beds done – there's 21 beds of peppers in all. I remember thinking "How we going to get this done in time?" So I told Dean and Nancy to contact everyone they could think of and beg for help.

So I get up on Wednesday conversing with God about the needed help. God – sometimes there's a conundrum – Psalm 46: 10 says "Be still and know that I am God." How do you know the difference in when to be still and when you're just leaning on a shovel waiting for a hole? I don't know about you, but I mostly find out afterwards. If you know how to beforehand, please let me know.

So on Wednesday, Pat sends me this email – *Thank you, Pat*. Long time ago, so I remember, he'd talked to me about when it would be best for them to come out and volunteer. I'd heard nothing in a while, so I forgot all about it. Then, there it was. "KHA Consulting – They will send out 20 on Thursday morning... and then another 20 in the afternoon. Whatever you need them to do." Good night, **that's 40 volunteers!** Sa-weetness! Thank you, God!!!

So the first group came and we put them to work on the sweet peppers. They got that done and got a start on the hot peppers before they left. The second group came, and finished the hot peppers, took a group photo, and it was time for them to go. Perfect! Big job, and its *D-O-N-E* !

We had the other volunteers doing the 'regular' harvest, with a concentration on harvesting the green tomatoes in the north of Field 1. Greg (that's one workin' dude) and I ran the wash and pack part of the operation. It was crazy, as we emptied the harvest totes and washed them, people were grabbing them and heading back out to the field as there were none others to use. We filled delivery totes and stacked, and stacked, and stacked 'em. We made a wall of them by the barn, then made another wall behind the command center, then another in front of the deck. Delivery totes everywhere! Then came time for delivery. We took a truckload to Freedom Food Pantry. Lets pause there for a minute - the bed of my truck holds 24 bins, the 8 foot bed of the new truck (Thank you, God! ...and Pat!) can hold 34 bins – that's a lot of groceries. Then we took another truck and a half to the cooler at Denton Community Food Center (Serve Denton) – thank you Tom! So, all our grey delivery totes, and a lot of our red ones, were out. Made it hard to pack Monday's harvest for delivery. Got me to thinking, we may need more totes – both harvest and delivery ones.

So, all told, we harvested 1,556 lbs. of peppers, 509 lbs. of tomatoes, couple that with the rest for a total harvest of 2,511.25 lbs. on Thursday. That's by far the biggest harvest since I've been there. *Whew!*

Final Comments

It's been busy scrambling last three months. We've harvested just shy of 30,000 lbs., or 56 percent of the year's total. For us, that's hoofin' it. There's a part of me that's glad to see the rain. Rain days are rest days. We're over 53,000 lbs.! Who'd a thunk it?

Cheers,

Doug