

Garden Committee Report

December 2022

Initial Comments

As I sit here and type the beginning of this report (Monday morning of January 2, 2023), I reflect on the whole year. There are many words I could use, unseasonably cold, unseasonably hot, unseasonably dry, diseased, dying and dead. It was a year of extremes. During the summer our goal wasn't production, it was keeping things alive. Through August we'd produced only half of what we'd produced the previous year. Yes, 2021 was a record year for us, it set a high bar for 2022. Disappointment reigned. But, there's another way to spell the word pronounced "reign." Then, in September the weather changed, and it made all the difference. It changed from practically barren to unimaginably productive. Frenzied harvests, wash and pack, and deliveries. Lots of deliveries. Two trip deliveries. From "wish we had something to deliver," to "where we going to take all this?" All I can say is...**WOW!**

Welcome

I'd like to take a moment to welcome Greg to the Shiloh Field team. He's an all-around great guy. He brings 40 years of nurseryman's and landscaper's experience. He brings a wealth of knowledge, experience, and wisdom. I'm excited and glad to have him. Welcome to the team, Greg!



Projects

Fertigation: I'm happy to say this project for the north of Field 2 is now complete.

Gearing Up: Don't really have any other projects going right now. We've planted cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, swiss chard, collards, beets, and lettuce. Lots of lettuce. We're trying to keep alive what we have planted, which means covering with freeze cloth when a freeze comes. It's been a struggle to get seeds to germinate when it's cold, get them growing when the weather turns favorable, and then keeping them alive when it gets cold again, but we're managing.

Virtual Garden Tour

Tomatoes: The killing freeze we had in December did its number on the tomatoes in Tunnel No. 2. We'd harvested all the tomatoes, green or not, and got them delivered. Then out came the plants...



Hi-Tunnels: ...Then we sprayed for the fungus growing in there so it wouldn't spread to anything we plant in there subsequently. Now here we are. Then we planted what was started in the nursery.



Frost/Freeze Kill: The freeze of Christmas week did us some harm. We'd planted a couple of beds of broccoli in Tunnel No. 1, and they didn't get covered through miscommunication. They froze and died. We replaced them with beds of beets and started more broccoli seed. We had a radish bed that had just started putting on true leaves, now it's been re-seeded.

Carrots: It's hard to tell from the picture, but the carrot tops took a small hit during the Christmas week freeze. They were covered, but some leaves were lost. I don't think it will affect the amount of harvest, but will affect the timing.



Lettuce: With an unheated nursery, it's been a struggle to get our seeded lettuce to size to transplant into the garden. But it finally happened. Cold nights don't allow for much growth. But once they got established in Tunnel No. 1, they took off. The weather warmed the week after Christmas and in a matter of four days they doubled in size (see pic). Just days later, they'd doubled in size again. Nice!

Nursery Starts: We're moving along... germination rates are lower, as some of our seed is getting old, some of it is related to the cold. It would be nice to have electricity and a germination chamber.



Seed Purchase: In 2020 we'd received a grant that allowed us to buy a lot of seed. I hadn't bought much since then. Oh, an occasional purchase here and there, but not much. But the first week of this year (2023), I needed to stock up again. We were out of some things that needed to be bought. I shopped, and shopped, then shopped some more. Holy mackerel, has the price of seed gone up!

Volunteer Report

January 01 to December 31, 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
JULY 2021	1,205.0	475
AUGUST 2021	1156.0	536
SEPTEMBER 2021	1279.25	612
OCTOBER 2021	1614.0	633
NOVEMBER 2021	1145.5	486
DECEMBER 2021	909.5	422
TOTALS:	13890.25	5379

January 01 to December 31, 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	1,501.00	534
OCTOBER 2022	1,569.75	612
NOVEMBER 2022	1,222.25	429
DECEMBER 2022	951.75	295
TOTALS:	13,934.00	5319

100% 99%

It's nice to see we've retained our volunteers. Life's situations take some from us as they move on, but others come out to replace them. This year it was nice to see a lot of familiar faces. It was nice that, when we needed to put out the clarion call for help, help arrived in mass. Dean, Greg and I were talking about our volunteers recently and we discussed how fortunate we are. A great group of people coming out for a great cause.

Harvest Report

January 01 to December 31, 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
JULY 2021	10650.0	202
AUGUST 2021	7817.0	160
SEPTEMBER 2021	3500.5	224
OCTOBER 2021	3379.0	*****
NOVEMBER 2021	3383.0	*****
DECEMBER 2021	2712.5	211
TOTALS:	55724.25	2450

January 01 to December 31, 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	11,745.25	*****
OCTOBER 2022	11,300.75	*****
NOVEMBER 2022	6,963.50	*****
DECEMBER 2022	2186.00	*****
TOTALS:	55,590.50	*****

100%

I'm going to date myself, but do you remember the old Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Telethons with the drumroll and the symbol when they would update the contribution totals? Well, there you have it. The math is 100% of last year, as it's a rounding error. We had our second best year ever, just 133.75 lbs. short of 2021. September and October were our two biggest months ever. It started out so very disappointing, as you could tell from my tone in those reports. But this fall was something marvelous to see. I feel like that person in the bible... "Lord, I don't need help with my belief, I need help with my unbelief."

Veg. by Veg.

January 01 to December 31, 2022		
PRODUCE	YTD 2021	YTD 2022
Asparagus	9.00	0.00
Beets	1,240.25	880.00
Bitter Melon	0.00	2,934.75
Blackberries	1,365.00	310.25
Bok Choy	330.50	436.25
Broccoli	211.25	28.75
Broccoli, Romanesco	21.50	0.00
Brussel Sprouts	16.00	0.00
Cabbage	642.50	968.00
Cabbage, Asian	1,882.50	505.50
Cabbage, Napa	433.50	1,398.25
Cantaloupe	2,784.50	394.75
Carrots	3,145.25	1,677.00
Cauliflower	105.25	500.00
Chard	583.00	188.25
Collard Greens	492.25	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	1,851.00
Egg Plant, Fairy Tale	0.00	15.50
Gourd, Cushaw	0.00	783.50
Leeks	24.00	0.00
Lettuce, Black Seeded Simpson	0.0	35.25
Lettuce, Butterhead	629.50	247.25
Lettuce, Mix	596.00	0.00
Lettuce, Romaine	934.50	922.00
Long Green Beans	115.50	517.75
Mustard	577.50	0.00

Mustard, Asian	0.00	301.50
Mustard, Florida Broadleaf	327.00	1,943.00
Mustard, Mizuna	716.50	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	1,343.50	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	83.50
Squash, Butternut	295.00	286.50
Squash, Pumpkin	0.00	106.75
Squash, Yellow	1,063.00	6,179.00
Squash, Zucchini	810.50	6,558.25
Tomatoes	3,741.00	3,760.75
Turnips, Purple Top	10.50	467.00
Watermelon	1,021.50	3,938.50
Totals:	55,724.25	55,590.50

“Doug, of the totals above, what jumps out at you?” Glad you asked. Squash. We grew about 12,000 lbs. of it in September and October, and we were able to deliver all of it. We need to learn how to grow

squash in those quantities the entire growing season. And another thing, we need to grow fewer things. We need to grow fewer things well. For instance, you'll notice that there are 12 different peppers on the list. In 2023 we're growing only five.

Delivery Report

Aubrey and Pilot Point Food Pantry	0.00
Christian Community Action - Lewisville (9,500)	9,839.75
Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home	1,533.00
Denton Food Bank	3,914.25
Denton Senior Center	4,674.25
First Refuge	0.00
Fred Moore Day Care	0.00
Freedom Food Pantry	19,552.50
Freedom House	0.00
Friends of the Family	2,538.75
Health Services of North Texas	0.00
Immaculate Conception Food Pantry	0.00
Kabayan Filipino Church	2,093.50
Lakewood Manor (Little Elm)	0.00
Life Works	67.00
MLK	3,531.25
Our Daily Bread (The Junction)	1,392.75
Presbyterian Ft Worth	43.50
Refuge for Women	48.75
Salvation Army	779.50
Shepherd's Storehouse Pantry (Pilot Point)	0.00
Singing Oaks	245.00
Vision Ministry	24.00
Westside Baptist Church - Lewisville	0.00
Volunteers	2,917.00
	1,628.00
	54,822.75

The delivery report total is slightly below the harvest report total. I attribute that to the frantic pace this fall and we delivered a little more than we actually recorded.

Visitation Report

Texas Health Resources: The ladies from Texas Health Resources came out again, and were we glad they



did. First off, they were just happy people, a joy to be around. They smiled, a lot. They joked and laughed even more. They jumped in and went to work, and they worked hard. They fit right in. I'd rank this group of ladies right up there with the Toyota groups. They harvested, they washed, they packed, and they cleaned up. Lots of volunteers come and go, most make their presence known. These ladies made an impact! Ladies, many thanks for coming. Y'all are welcome at Shiloh Field anytime. And bring friends!

Final Comments

In future days, when I give tours that have the time, when I talk about the harvest of 2022, it will start out with such despair, such disappointment. That's life in the world. But we who believe, we don't mourn as the world does. We have hope. And our Hope came through for us. What a rollercoaster ride it was. We came out on top of the world! Shiloh Field, what the world was meant to be, a little slice of heaven on earth.

Cheers,

Doug