

GARDEN NOTES

NEW BEGINNINGS

The new year is upon us, yet we have one last bit of update for 2024 - our Aware Foodbank donation total topped out at 1981 lbs. of produce (sometimes procrastination works - this time in the case of more broccoli to accompany our potatoes).

THANK YOU's go out to Mark for helping arrange a discounted pile of cedar for upgrading some of the older planter boxes and to Kathy for the donation of a pump as part of an idea for harvesting rainwater...

WEEDS, etc.

To combat our friends' come Spring, we have installed several pieces of Silage Tarp to help smother them. We will also be using some special, pre-punched weed control fabric for the beds and rows once we start planting. If you know of anyone who might be interested in becoming a Weed Warden this year, please send them my direction.

FLORENCE (Oregon, not Italy!)

The pictures are from our December field trip to the Florence Food Share Community Garden...what a set up they have, producing an average of 10,000 lbs. of donated produce each year, respectively. While their site is approximately one half of ours in area...

The Garden is located behind the food bank office / distribution area and warehouse buildings and completely enclosed by a wood fence, complete with an outdoor stage of sorts and Memorial Gazebo.

Florence has power, controlled irrigation, and distributes water supplies to all corners of their garden. Part of this water/irrigation system includes 5 - 5000 gallon holding tanks to capture rainwater from two rooftops. The system is also tied to City Water (the rainwater does run dry sometimes) - all on timed distribution to grow beds (Very impressed here!!)

The grow beds - all fifty-one of them are filled with organic compost twelve" deep - wonderful growing medium and easy for quick crop rotation between plant varieties. They turn some crops 2 to 3 times a year. The beds are built with a composite material sourced out of the Medford area - the panels measure one' tall x 2' long and cost in the range of \$200 each so - each bed costs around \$2400 to build - not including compost fill and irrigation.

The High Tunnels - there are two each which allow for year-round growing. Currently loaded up with Cabbage, these are used in the Summer for Carrots, Onions, Leafy Greens, etc. These tunnels are manually conditioned in that one end is closed while the other remains open until a cold snap is forecasted at which time the open end is sealed, and a small propane heater is engaged.

GARDEN NOTES

Florence uses its greenhouse to self-propagate seeds, with a larger shade / processing area for hardening off plant prior to going in the ground and for cleaning harvested crops prior to donation (we will be doing a smaller version of this with the rebuilding of our Shade Structure).

Florence does compost materials from their garden, but on a smaller scale than we are currently doing. Their set-up is nicer (BIGGER) but has not been a big focus recently - all to change this Spring.

The biggest lesson(?) learned in Florence is of Volunteers and Grant Writers - they have both! The Garden Coordinator indicated a steady base of approximately twenty volunteers who help with all facets from seed starting to harvest (including PULLING WEEDS) and a Grant Writer who has been able to tap into outside sources (as witnessed in the photos and the basis of the notes on material costs)...

PICTURES



Growing Beds - 51 each at 2' x 10' x 12" all filled with compost and individually irrigated. All pathways are all covered in a heavy layer of chipped wood

GARDEN NOTES



High Tunnel 1 - Year-Round cropping!



High Tunnel 2 - if we had two of the same size, they would cover the growing area to the North of our greenhouse...

GARDEN NOTES



Rainwater Collection - from the roofs of two adjacent Food Bank buildings which also serve as boundary walls for the Garden...two pipes from the two-story Warehouse roof, the single, lower line from the one-story office roof to the left.



Rainwater Storage - 5 ea. five thousand gallon above ground tanks

GARDEN NOTES



Woody - Woody watches over workshop in Florence and he will have relatives coming to Woodburn, soon! If anyone has ideas for names, please get them to me. I will move them around the Garden randomly, we can dress them up for holidays and events?!

(WAITING FOR GAZEBO PICTURE TO DOWNLOAD)

Memorial Gazebo - this Gazebo was built in memory of benefactors and founders of the garden.

We thought it might be a great option for the area in our Garden formerly populated by Blackberries! Whether it included a roof or not, planter boxes around the columns, picnic tables / benches beneath and around the outside - would be a great are for public use and various elements could be named in honor of those who helped establish the garden...details will be presented to the B&G Committee for consideration.

GARDEN NOTES



(WAITING FOR NEW PICTURE TO DOWNLOAD)

"The Dais" - always at my side, got us safely to Newport and back and always the first in the truck when asked "want to go for a ride" or "want to go to the Garden"...if you are by the garden and my truck is parked at the entry, she'll be in the back seat and always welcomes a scratch, pat on the head, treat.....

GARDEN NOTES

CALENDAR

JANUARY

20 - MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

Cleanup as weather allows (including the Garage!)

Planning

Best Fishing Days - 3, 4, 11, 12, 13

FEBRUARY

2 - GROUND HOG DAY

14 - VALENTINES DAY!!

17 - PRESIDENTS DAY (OBSERVED)

Anything as weather allows

Best Fishing Days - 8, 9

PROJECTS (grab one/make it yours or let me know you are interested, and we will get you involved!)

CHIP DISTRIBUTION

EXPANDED GROWING AREA (behind HeadStart)

MEADOW AREA (behind the Entry Garden - former blackberry patch)

UPDATE GARDEN SIGNAGE

GARDEN ART

DONATE / TRANSPLANT RASPBERRY STARTS

REBUILD GARDEN BOXES

REBUILD SHADE STRUCTURE

THANKS ALL!

Heather and Andy Brophy

jhhhgg2659@gmail.com