



Newsletter for friends having fun in the dirt!

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THE SEASON IN REVIEW



From the 1st garden clean-up day on April 26th . . .



to the last garden clean-out day on October 4th . . .

OUR SECOND SEASON OF GARDENING WAS FILLED WITH FRIENDSHIPS, SHARING, EXPERIMENTING WITH NEW PLANTS, AND THE JOY OF GETTING OUR HANDS IN THE SOIL!



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GARDEN TALK

WHAT WORKED?
WHAT DIDN'T?



Our end-of-season “Social Distancing” event brought 22 gardeners together and all of them shared “what worked” and what didn’t do quite as well in their garden. You’ll see from the recap several common themes were revealed:

- soil that was amended last fall or this spring generally produced stronger, healthier plants and higher yields
- many tomato plants began wilting in early summer and continued to decline throughout the season resulting in lower yields of quality tomatoes
- would like to see less powdery mildew on plants throughout the garden

WHAT WORKED?

- Mesclun – leafy lettuces, arugula (from seeds – 40 days to 1st cut)
- Romaine
- Red leaf lettuce (planted Aug 1st)
- Lettuce (planted for fall harvest)
- Chives
- Pak Choi (aka Bok Choi)
- Beans
- Radishes
- Cucumbers
- Potatoes, Yukon Gold
- Pea Pods
- Butternut squash
- Edamame (started from seed)
- Zucchini (planted a bit later)
- Onion sets
- Garlic
- Potatoes
- Basil
- Carrots

WHAT DIDN'T?

- Tomatoes
- Zucchini
- Green peppers
- Spinach
- Squash (hit w/mildew)
- Cucumbers (hit w/mildew)
- Shouldn't have soaked bean seeds
- Added too much water – plants didn't root deeply

CONSIDER FOR 2021

- All gardeners agree to have any outbreaks of powdery mildew in their plot sprayed by a gardener/volunteer (on a weekly basis to minimize continued spread) using an organic solution of liquid non-detergent soap and baking soda. Volunteers to be recruited to cover the entire season.
- All gardeners agree that any *produce left on the ground* in their beds on Food Pantry day will be gathered and donated.
- Re-examine the irrigation system watering schedule (days, duration) to ensure optimal results.

BELIEVE IT... OR NOT!

The oddest vegetables of the season



Jim & Lori Frandy's "tremendous" turnip – Plot 46



I was proud to have the honor of nominating this *tubular two-ton turnip* at our end-of-season "Social Distancing" get together. The 22 gardeners in attendance were in awe to learn that this was but one of nearly a dozen mega-monsters to come out of their soil.

P.S. I took this home: we sliced it; steamed it; and then ate it with butter, salt & pepper.



Joan Hill's "king-size" kohlrabi – Plot 51

This was such a large kohlrabi, I had to take it home to measure it against a 9" stuffed bunny to give you a better sense of the overall size.

And since I had it home: we sliced it; steamed it; and then ate it with butter, salt & pepper.



Mark Murphy's "strange" carrots – Plot 43

What commentary could I possibly make about these carrots that would be *positive* and *appropriate*? You all can decide what you see when you look at these oddities!

Mark was kind enough to give them to me. I took them home: we sliced them; steamed them; and then ate them with butter, salt & pepper.

Hmmm! Do you see a pattern here?



The 1st "Mr. Potato Head" Award

Most of us weren't even aware of this competition and the prestigious "trophy" that goes to the winner.

An actual, vintage Mr. Potato Head will be awarded to the gardener that grows the largest potato of any variety (by weight, size).

As the season draws to a close, the competition will be decided between Rob Rude (#38) and Karen Wilke (#55).

Going forward, this will be a "traveling trophy" and a record will be maintained listing each of the annual winners.

The "Littlest" result that started with "Big Potential"

Peg Eble dreamed of the day when she would be harvesting beautiful, large tomatoes from the BEEFSTEAK plants she and Rick diligently cared for all season. Plot 54.

Words are not needed to describe the results as this picture says it all.

Jan Rude suggests they plant the very hardy and productive "Wisconsin 55" variety next year.



Thank You, Gardeners

See you next year!

2021 Site Map with Names

