

The Good Food Project

Year End Report and Mission Statement
For Spring, Summer and Fall 2010

Edited by Ben R. Dair '11



The Garden in Spring

During the spring semester of 2010, Ben Dair and Jesse Marshall co-managed the garden at the corner of Cedar and Elm. A number of physical improvements greatly boosted both the area and productivity of the garden.

- The construction of a sturdy bamboo-and-mesh fence prevented animals from munching on our seedlings and transplants, enabling safe photosynthesis for the entire growing season.
- We successfully elevated kale and spinach plants by building raised beds from recycled shipping pallets in the medium-sized plot occupied by perennial raspberries, strawberries and asparagus.
- One small bed inherited from Learning for Life added another 30% of growing space for pole beans and squash.
- Having been asked to care for the President's Kitchen Garden, we planted tomatoes and peppers.

A number of all-campus events boosted the social impact of the Good Food Project. Our new grill that allowed us to feed our hungry gardeners was a big hit with new volunteers.

- The Planting Parlor Party in March has become a tradition where students bring cups and soda bottles to transform into mini-planters to bring back to their dorm rooms. The number of seedlings returned from the event was quite impressive.
- During the Parents' Weekend Gardening Party, the careful use of a rototiller shredded sod expand to the large bed by about one-third. This new soil supported kale and chard, cucumbers and basil.

The greenhouse space so generously shared with us in the new Wister Center is a major benefit for the Good Food Project as it allows us to start seedlings in a consistently managed environment. The success of our tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and squash plants are a testament to the usefulness of the greenhouse space.

Tables and Figures:

Seed Savers' Exchange Order List 2010
Planting Map with Bed Dimensions

The Garden in Summer

Between June and September, Nick Vogt, Eric Burger and Camille Robertson co-managed the garden.

- Five to ten people on average attended biweekly gardening work days.
- Managers watered two hours a day, six days a week.
- All the hoses that sprung leaks were fixed.
- Weeding and fence repair required a majority of attention.

The garden also saw a number of planting days with the establishment of new transplants.

- Radishes and carrots moved to the raised beds.
- Melons in the 'Perennials Plot.'
- Garlic in the 'Large Plot.'
- Squash, pumpkins and beans in the small 'Learning for Life Plot.'

The summer months also see the most plant productivity and the students doing research at the College were the primary beneficiaries of most harvests.

- Raspberries and strawberries ripened.
- Garlic finished maturing and was dried.
- Lettuce produced constantly.

The Garden in Fall

During the autumn months the garden was co-managed by Ben Dair and Marjorie Herbert. As the growing season wanes in productivity, the Fall is a time to celebrate summer yields and organize the community to appreciate local food and local harvest.

- Tools were relocated from the President's Garage to 404 Elm.
- Garden managers watered for an hour each day.
- We raised \$120 from selling saved seeds at the Swarthmore Local Food Fair in October and donated the funds to the Chester Community Garden Project. This money was subsequently used to rent a turf cutter to expand the beds located in a community owned by the Chester Housing Authority.
- In a large October garden party, we entertained over thirty people with roasted squash and okra, fresh tomatoes and cabbage salad, and a packout from Sharples Dining Hall. The Cooper Event featured speakers the Yes Men were in attendance.

We also organized a series of community cooking dinners where we enjoyed basil pesto, squash, arugula, kale, turnip greens and okra.

Other Projects and Notable Events

Over 50 people attended our first weekly kick-off meeting. Since then, the core group of meeting attendees that we can count on to volunteer at all events remains stable at about 15 people.

The Window Farms hydroponics project in the Science Center Commons continues to draw interest and was the subject of a Learning for Life workshop led by E. Carr Everbach.

Composting in Essie Mae's doubled following a change in bin location and signage. A collaboration with the student group Green Advisors has also increased composting service coverage by placing buckets in the dormitories.

Notable Events Include:

- Kallari - Sustainable Cocoa Plantation Presentation / Chocolate Tasting
- Cooper Event: *Greening the Rust Belt: Urban Agriculture and Food Security in Detroit and Philadelphia* (Oct. 28)
- Compost Facility Tour (Nov. 12)
- Meat Day (Nov. 16th)
- Sharples Dining Hall Local Foods night

Appendix

Seed Order Winter 2010

From Seed Saver's Exchange Online:

Carrot, St. Valery , Packet 250 seeds
 Squash, Cheyenne Bush , Packet 25 seeds
 Squash, Anna Swartz OG, Packet 25 seeds
 Squash, Golden Zucchini , Packet 25 seeds
 Beet, Chioggia , Packet 100 seeds
 Beet, Burpee's Golden , Packet 100 seeds
 Brussel Sprout, Long Island , Packet 50 seeds
 Kale, Lacinato OG, Packet 100 seeds
 Broccoli, Calabrese , Packet 50 seeds
 Chard, Five Color Silverbeet OG, Packet 100 seeds
 Herb, Genovese Basil OG, Packet 250 seeds
 Okra, Clemson Spineless , Packet 100 seeds
 Okra, Red Burgundy , Packet 100 seeds
 Flower, Red Marietta , Packet 250 seeds
 Herb, Cilantro OG, Packet 250 seeds
 Tomato, Cherokee Purple , Packet 50 seeds
 Tomato, Red Fig OG, Packet 25 seeds
 Tomato, Wapsipinicon , Packet 50 seeds
 Cucumber, Early Fortune OG, Packet 25 seeds
 Arugula or Rocket OG, Packet 500 seeds
 Pea, Dwarf Gray Sugar , Packet 100 seeds
 Lettuce, Red Rapids , Packet 250 seeds
 Sunflower, Titan , Packet 50 seeds
 Bean, Cherokee Trail OG, Packet 50 seeds
 Bean, Hidatsa Shield OG, Packet 50 seeds
 Bean, Sultan's Golden OG, Packet 50 seeds
 Bean, Purple Pod Pole OG, Packet 50 seeds
 Turnip, Purple Top White , Packet 250 seeds
 Chard, Rhubarb OG, Packet 100 seeds

Budget and Seed Order 2008-2009:

Seed Company Plant Type Plant Name Special? Ref # Quantity Price

Rennee's Seeds Tomato Summer Feast Mix H 5421packet \$2.69
 Rennee's Seeds Tomato Camp Joy Cherry H 5302packet \$2.69
 Rennee's Seeds Cucumber Heirloom Duo H 5061packet \$2.69
 Rennee's Seeds Eggplant Italian Trio H 5112packet \$2.69
 Rennee's Seeds Bean Tricolor Pole 5560packet \$2.69
 Rennee's Seeds Onion Scallions, Duo H 5157packet \$2.69
 Rennee's Seeds Peppers Southwestern Trio 5169packet \$2.69
 Rennee's Seeds Carrots Yellow and Orange Mix 5143packet \$2.69
 Rennee's Seeds Beet Jewel Toned Blend H 5570packet \$2.69
 Johnny's Seeds Broccoli De cicco H 148Mini \$2.05
 Johnny's Seeds Onion New York Early H 504GMini \$3.45
 Seeds of Change Potato Peruvian Fingerling Rare S161812 lbs \$10.93
 Seeds of ChangeCorn Rainbow Inca Original S10727100 seeds \$2.59
 Seeds of ChangeWatermelon Moon and Stars H S1215435 seeds \$2.84
 Seeds of Change Squash Yellow Crookneck H S10672pack \$2.46
 Seeds of Change Zucchini Cocozelle Bush H S10669pack \$2.84
 Seeds of Change Pumpkin Small Sugar H S10677pack \$2.46
 Seeds of Change Onion
 Siskiyou Sweet Onion H S10659100 seeds \$2.65 14/19 H Sub Total \$53.83
 2nd plot X 2 Shipping \$20.00 Total \$127.66

Equipment

Tool Price quantity total
 plastic roll \$30 1 \$30
 topsoil/compost \$5 20 \$100
 50 Gal. BRUTE Rollout Container \$66.97 1 \$66.97
 Gardening gloves \$5 10 \$50
 sunscreen \$5 3 \$15
 32 Gal. BRUTE Utility Container \$27.97 3 \$83.91
 Grill for community-building \$200 1 \$200
 Red wiggler worms for worm compost \$20 2 \$40

Photo Memories:



From a to h: clearing the garden for fall, fallow beds, raised frames, building a fence, raspberries, kale transplants from greenhouse, window farm, Meat Day.