

**MASTER
GARDENER**
UF UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA
IFAS Extension

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<http://mastergardener.ifas.ufl.edu>

Form 10

Florida Master Gardener Awards and Recognition Form Awards of Excellence

Each county is allowed **ONE ENTRY PER CATEGORY**. Although your Master Gardener Coordinator may have been heavily involved in this effort, only the efforts of the Master Gardeners themselves are to be evaluated. Points will be deducted if it is perceived that most of the effort or submission of entry forms came from the Master Gardener Coordinator.

Only efforts made since the last awards ceremony will be considered by the judges. Any new or re-certified active Florida Master Gardener(s) are eligible. In the event your entry does **not** take top honors in this category this year, we would encourage you to improve your submission and resubmit your entry next year should you *repeat or continue* this project. If your project has won in **ANY** year, it **CANNOT BE RE-ENTERED** again, despite any significant changes in format or participants.

Judges for the awards shall be appointed by the State Master Gardener Program Leader, University of Florida. Decisions by the judges will be final.

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT

SEE BELOW FOR APPLICATION CRITERIA:

The correct and completed award application forms including:

- A typed application form not to exceed 3 pages in length. Supporting materials (where requested may be additional pages)
 - The three pages must include the 150 word project summary.
- 12 point font
- No more than 8 photographs in addition to the three pages of text. (Photos no larger than 8 x 10)
- This form typed and completed including: appropriate category checked
- Name of MG Coordinator (The coordinator must approve application prior to admission)
- Application, photos and supporting materials must all be in PDF format and packaged into one document. Submissions are to be emailed to: twichman@ufl.edu

County:.....Leon.....
Name of Project:.....Demonstration/Educational Vegetable and Herb Garden.....
Project start date:.....July 2011..... Project end date:.....Continuing.....
Name of person(s) typing application:.....Nancy Turner.....
Name or names of Master Gardeners preparing application.....Sue Hansen, Carol Schee, Anne Toffield,
.....Bill Callis, Nancy Turner.....

Name of Agent:.....Heleena Wilmer - Horticulture Program Assistant.....

CATEGORY: Indicate only one category per entry form. You must assign your entry to a specific category to be considered for an award in that category. Entries are limited to the categories indicated below.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Form 11 Beautification | <input type="checkbox"/> Form 18 Personal Communications |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form 12 Demonstration Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Form 19 Service to 4-H and other youth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Form 13 Educational Materials Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Form 20 Special Audiences |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Form 14 Extension Awareness | <input type="checkbox"/> Form 22 Written or Verbal Mass Comm. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Form 15 County Displays/Exhibits | <input type="checkbox"/> Form 23 County Master Gardener Newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Form 16 General Achievement | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Form 17 Outstanding Master Gardener | |

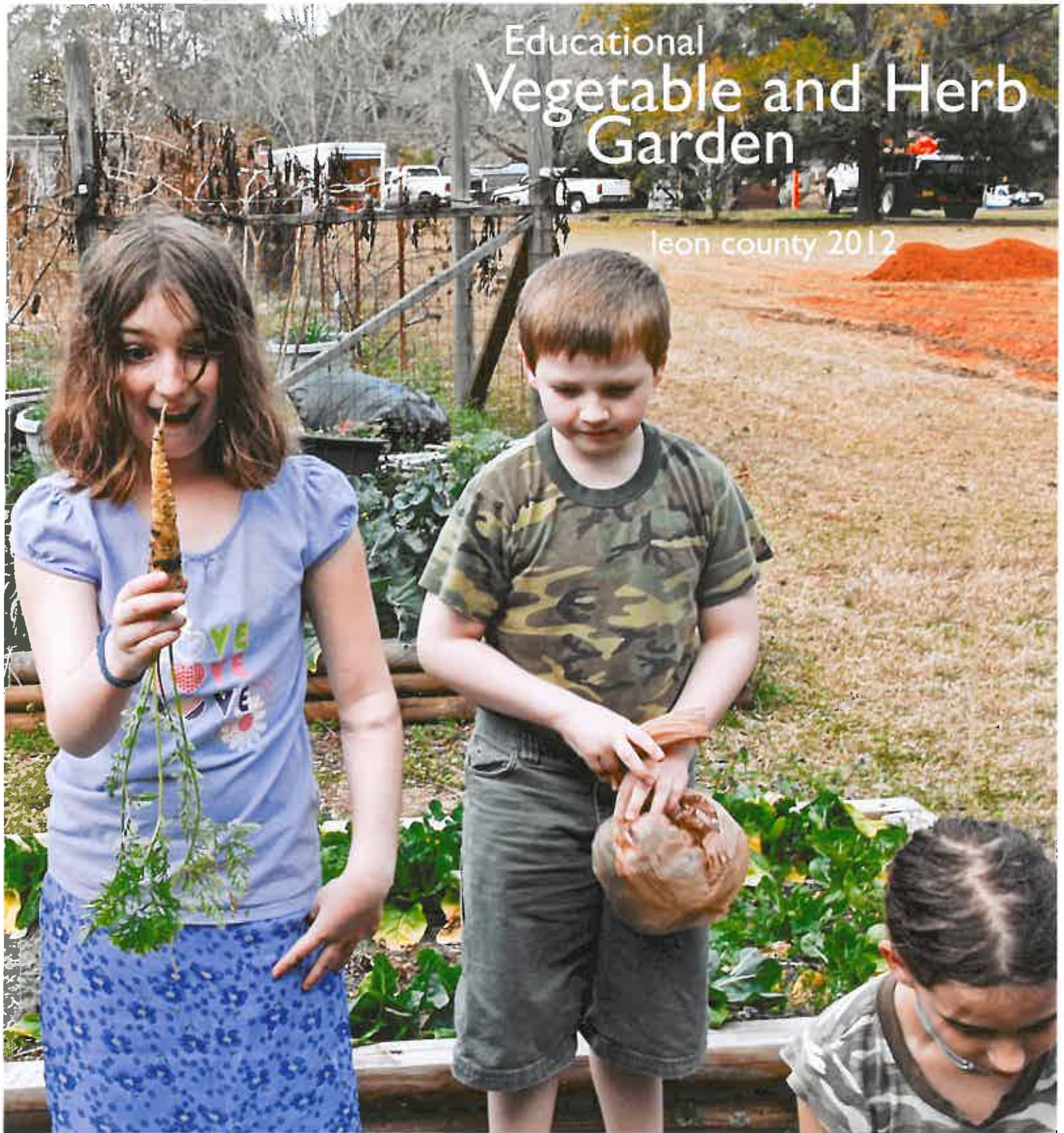
Email PDF Applications to:

Tom Wichman
twichman@ufl.edu

TO BE ELIGIBLE ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 1, 2012

Educational Vegetable and Herb Garden

leon county 2012



**FLORIDA MASTER GARDENER
DEMONSTRATION/EDUCATIONAL GARDEN AWARD
VEGETABLE AND HERB GARDEN**

1. The scope of the demonstration/educational vegetable and herb garden

The Leon County IFAS Cooperative Extension Service has a vegetable and herb gardening section in its Demonstration Gardens. The vegetable and herb gardens, developed in the spring of 2011, include four (4) raised beds, two (2) experimental hydroponic plots, one (1) conventional test plot measuring 31 feet by 25 feet and an organic test plot that measures 25 feet by 57 feet.

The vegetable and herb gardens served a dual purpose. The primary goal of the garden was to educate Master Gardeners, 4-H youth and the public in growing vegetables and herbs. The educational components of the vegetable and herb gardens included soil preparation and improvement, use of organic and conventional fertilizers, pesticides, composting, laying cardboard and mulching to suppress weeds, cover crops and irrigation techniques. A secondary goal was to donate fresh produce to distribute to low income populations served by Second Harvest Food Bank.

Approximately twenty-two (22) Master Gardeners and 4-H youth worked in the garden. Three (3) staff members provided instruction and assisted with planning. Planning meetings were held prior to the beginning of each growing season after which the Master Gardeners worked each Tuesday in the gardens. They spent approximately 516 hours in planning and working in the gardens. The Master Gardeners, who referred to themselves as the “Veggie Heads”, were:

Cathy Alfano	Rachel Baker	Charles Baisden
Martha Canady	David Crawford	Louie Doll
Sue Hansen	Carole Hayes	Laurie Jones
Larry Lesko	Anna Ohlson	Joan May
Glenn Mayne	Marie Melton	Janis Piotrowski
Marcie Praetorius	Carol Schee	Ed Schroeder
Brennis Verhine	Glenda Verhine	Elizabeth Voorhies
Ed Whitehouse		

The staff members who worked with the Master Gardeners and the 4-H youth were:

Les Harrison	Trevor Hylton
Zulema Wibmer	

2. The purpose of the vegetable and herb garden and its potential audiences

The purpose of the vegetable gardens was to educate the Master Gardeners, 4-H youth, and the public in various methods of gardening. Due to today’s economic climate and to a desire to grow fresh foods, the public expressed greater interest in vegetable gardening. The February 2012 issue of the Leon County Master Gardener newsletter reported the end-of-year comparisons of gardening questions that had been asked by public inquiry via email. In 2010, 12% of the questions and responses were about vegetable gardening.

In 2011, that category of questions/responses increased to 20.4%. Questions on fruiting plants increased from 2.7% to 6.6%. In conclusion, the report stated, “the interest in gardening activity that is associated with producing food has increased dramatically over two years.” In addition to increasing public interest, many Master Gardeners expressed interest in learning to grow vegetables in the Demonstration Gardens.

The audiences reached included (1) the public who visited the gardens throughout the year and, in particular, during the spring and fall Open Houses at the County Extension Center; (2) the 4-H youth and Master Gardeners who worked in the gardens; (3) other Master Gardeners through reports in the Master Gardener newsletter; and (4) the Second Harvest Food Bank that distributed fresh produce to low-income families.

3. Evaluation of the site as an effective educational demonstration

One means of evaluating the vegetable and herb gardens was by gathering comments from the Master Gardeners who participated in planning, establishing, and maintaining the gardens. Their comments are included as a supporting document.

A second means of evaluating the educational purpose of the vegetable and herb gardens was by the comments on Survey Cards collected from visitors as they left the Open Houses in the fall and the spring. The survey cards were reviewed. The comments related to the vegetable gardens are included as a supporting document.

Other master gardeners who observed the work of the vegetable garden were inspired to begin their own vegetable gardens. A certified master gardener reports on a garden she started at her church to provide food for those in need of food.

4. The results of the demonstration/educational vegetable and herb garden

In the gardens, the gardeners used tried and true vegetables—asparagus, peppers, garlic, onions, eggplant, okra, tomatoes, pole beans, bush beans, English peas, sugar snap peas, potatoes, corn, popcorn, butternut squash, field peas, strawberries, lettuce, collards, turnips and various herbs. They could see the results of their planting, maintaining and harvesting.

The gardeners depended on many “aids” to assist them with their work in the vegetable garden. The aids came in many forms: bats produced guano that was used; the birds helped to keep the insect populations in check; an I Pad was used on site to identify problems, pests, or diseases. Vegetable gardening was truly a multi-species community effort.

Many of the Master Gardeners established their own vegetable garden plots at home or participated in a community gardening setting. They reported finding great value in learning from the earth—and from each other.

5. The ways in which the educational gardens helped the potential audiences

The Master Gardeners met to make plans for the gardens—what to plant, when and where. In addition to deciding what to plant, they discussed what NOT to plant. For

instance, at a February 2012 meeting they agreed not to plant summer squash, given the borer problems, and the fact that they were expecting a lot of bugs this year. Once the planning was completed for the vegetable and herb gardens, the Master Gardeners worked every Tuesday planting, composting, mulching, weeding, labeling beds, and/or harvesting.

A) They experimented with conventional fertilizers and organic fertilizers. Various fertilizers, e.g. organic mushroom compost and conventional fertilizers were used in the beds. The conventional plot (east side) received commercial fertilizer plus mulching. The organic (west side) received organic fertilizers plus mulching. The conventional fertilizers showed faster initial growth. The results showed no difference between the types of fertilizer used.

B) They saw the results of planting both seeds and seedlings in the vegetable and herb gardens.

C) They learned to use the guano produced by bats. They learned the benefits of having a bat house near the garden. A bat house located near the vegetable and herb gardens provided a source for guano. The guano was gathered by the Master Gardeners, along with the hay used to cover it, and was added to the compost pile. The gardeners re-mulched the bat house area with fresh hay.

D) They learned the benefit of locating beehives near the garden. They were a source of pollination.

E) In 2011, the Leon County Extension Office Master Gardener program donated 636 pounds of food or the equivalent of 489 meals to the Second Harvest Food Bank of the Big Bend of Florida.

F) They learned many lessons throughout the seasons of the gardens....from planting... to maintaining... to harvesting... to preparing the soil for the next growing season and starting all over again.

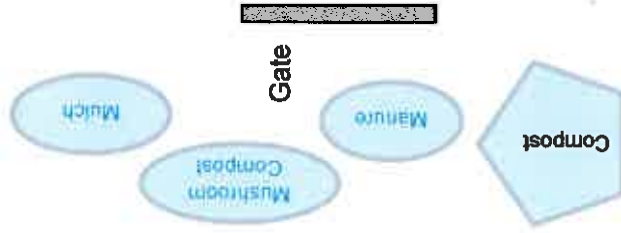
6. Project summary

The expression on the face of the young woman in 4-H who has just pulled a carrot out of the ground is priceless! The expression is one of exhilaration and amazement. Multiply these feelings by the number of gardeners who worked in the vegetable gardens—from the very youngest to the oldest—and you have an explosion of pride in their learning to prepare the soil; plant the seeds and seedlings; maintain the plants through weeding, watering, and mulching; and, then, harvest the plants.

Learning to grow vegetables is a very practical approach to gardening. It provides a source of food for the family as well as the community. The gardeners found much joy in being able to donate fresh produce to the food bank because of their work in the demonstration garden.

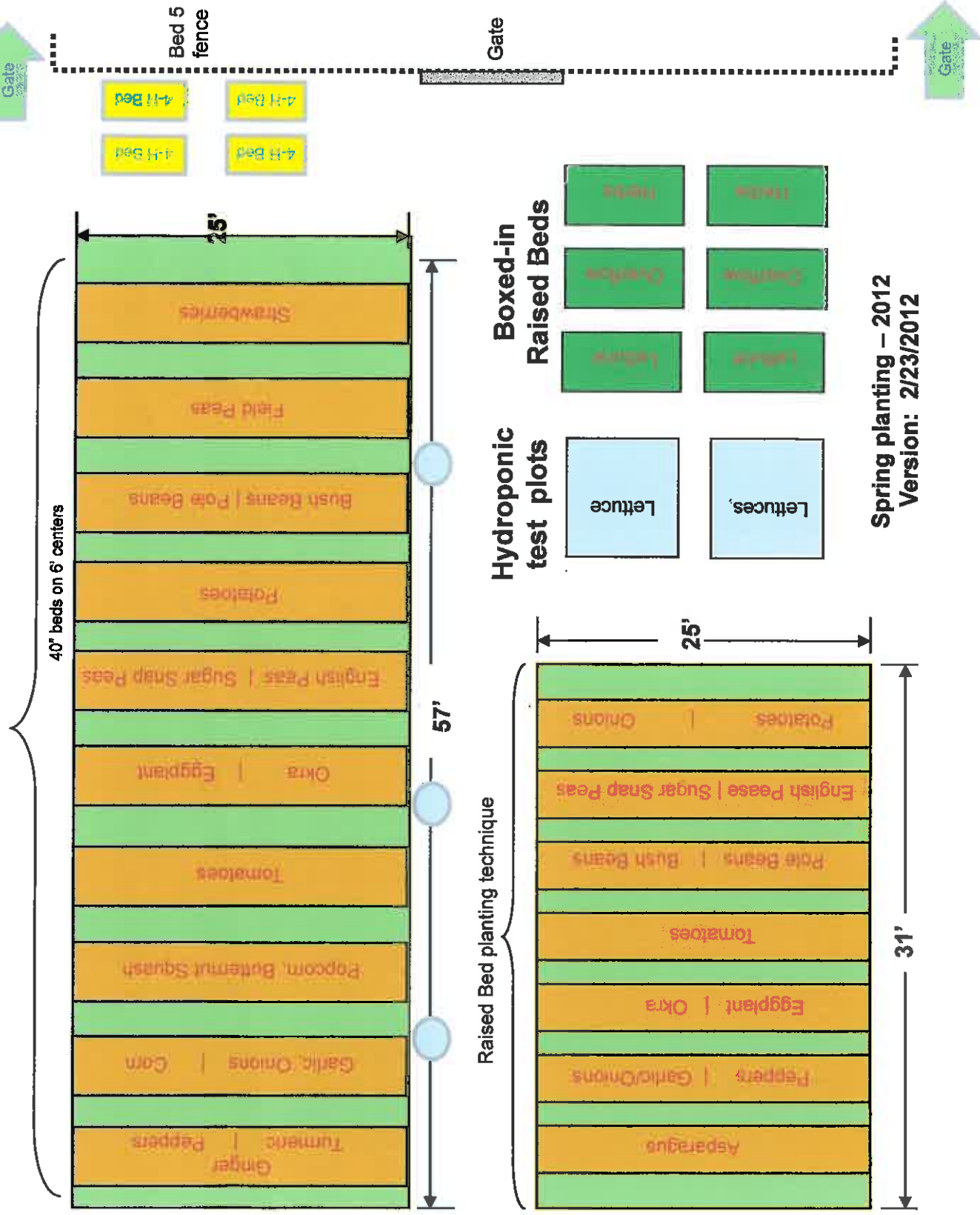
Leon County Master Gardeners Vegetable Plot Project

Organic test plot



Conventional test plot

W
S
N
E



Vegetables, Herbs, and Fruit grown in the Demonstration Garden

Vegetables

Asparagus	Corn
Popcorn	Tomatoes, many varieties
Cherry tomatoes	Okra
English peas	Black-eyed peas
Field peas	Sugar snap peas
Yellow squash	Butternut squash
Zucchini	Eggplant, both globe and Ichiban
Red Pontiac potatoes	Sweet potatoes
Cantaloupe	Cucumbers
Soy beans	Bush beans, Blue Wonder
Lima beans	Pole beans
Peppers, many varieties	Peanuts
Onions	Garlic
Cauliflower	Broccoli
Spinach	Kale
Swiss chard	Collard Greens
Turnip Greens	Lettuce

Herbs

Tarragon	Mint, spearmint and chocolate
Rosemary	Turmeric
Ginger	Basil, sweet and purple
English thyme	Oregano
Chives	Lavender

Fruit

Strawberries



Florida Master Gardeners' Association of Leon County E-Newsletter for January 2012

Vegetable Garden:

Cauliflower, Swiss Chard and Radishes, oh my!

The vegetable garden has produced an abundance of good food; most of it donated to Second Harvest, and has been a source of lots of good exercise and camaraderie. With the exception of a row of beautiful lettuce, which was devoured by what we think was a squirrel, (a Have-a-Heart trap was ignored), everything thrived.

We probably could use some improvement of our thinning techniques, and at times the grass was a pain to weed out of the beds, but hard work and plentiful mulch helped a lot. One benefit of thinning was that we got to take some thinnings home – I have a nice little crop of collards and kale!

The beds were totally organic, built up with a combination of mushroom compost, leaf mulch and rotted straw. The straw really helped to keep the weeds down, and we did not have any major problems with bugs. I even learned how to dig a cutworm out of the stem of a squash plant.

We have a core of dedicated vegetable gardeners but could always use more help. The vegetable garden was a treat for visitors to our spring and fall Open Houses. Many folks have been surprised by the fact that we have a veggie garden at the Extension Center. Come, join the fun and learn!

Preparation: Spreading mulch over
cardboard



Preparation: Instruction before
planting



Planting





4-H youth digging for plants



Using the I Pad to analyze problems
on site



Fighting hunger
Feeding hope

January 18, 2012

Sue Hansen
Leon County Extension Office
Master Gardner Program
615 Paul Russell Road
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear Sue,

Thank you for your ongoing support of America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend and for your generous donations in 2011! With your help, last year we distributed more than 4.1 million meals to our neighbors struggling with hunger.

Last year was a challenging year for many in the Big Bend region. We saw the face of hunger change drastically to affect more middle income families who have, sadly, fallen into poverty. Your generous donations helped ensure these families had nutritious food in their pantries and on their tables.

In 2011, The Leon County Extension Office, Master Gardner Program donated 636 pounds of food or the equivalent of 489 meals!

As the need continues to grow, your generous, local donations are even more crucial to help feed our neighbors in need. We now help to feed 33,000 individuals each month in our eleven county service area -- with your generous donations, we can provide them with nutritious foods to help them in their time of need.

We could not continue to help feed the thousands of our neighbors in need without you and The Master Gardner Program so again, thank you. We look forward to partnering with you in 2012.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Phoenix
Executive Director

Stephanie Kilham
Food Resources Manager



A member of



Produce to be given to the Second
Harvest Food Bank



Leon County Cooperative Extension
Demonstration Garden

~10th Anniversary~



Spring Open House

<http://leon.ifas.ufl.edu>
(850) 606-5202

615 Paul Russell Road
Saturday, May 19, 2012
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

- ❁ Leisurely Self-guided Tours:
 - ❁ Vegetable Gardens
 - ❁ Landscape Gardens
 - ❁ Roses
- ❁ Micro Irrigation/Water Conservation
- ❁ Florida Friendly Landscapes
- ❁ Wildlife
 - Bats, Birds, Butterflies and Bees
- ❁ Floral Designs from Your Yard
- ❁ Doorprizes
- ❁ Musical Entertainment

Master Gardeners will be
available to answer questions





Visitors touring the Vegetable and Herb Garden at the Open House

Comments from Master Gardeners who worked in the Vegetable and Herb gardens

A) "I have realized that gardening isn't just soil, water, seeds, and plants but it is people too. Learning from the other gardeners, enjoying their companionship, teaching the young and inexperienced, and contributing fresh food to charity are all rewarding ventures that inspire me to be a better person." Larry

B) "I have learned about working as a community of Master Gardeners not just as one of a group of individual volunteers to achieve a splendid demonstration garden." Marcie

C) "I've learned a lot about plants I've never grown before, like asparagus and field peas and strawberries. I've also learned there are several ways to do just about everything. Finally, it's been very interesting to see the difference between the conventional and organic gardens. The soil on the organic side continues to improve, while the soil on the conventional side is drier and more compacted." Cathy

D) "The Demonstration Garden has taught me a lot of good things about vegetable gardening to pass along to the members of the Fort Braden Community Garden, where I am garden manager. We have been discouraged with the results of our broccoli, Brussels sprouts, and cauliflower crops, and when we saw the gorgeous ones grown at the Demo Garden, we determined to try again. Watering less in the winter garden was an important element we learned. Having other gardeners there to share information, answer questions, and appreciate successes has been great." Janis

E) "I have learned so much—from the proper prepping of the bed, planting and appropriate fertilization using composted material." Marie

F) "I've thought about gardening and even done some for many years. However, working on the demonstration vegetable garden is helping me to BE a gardener. I've been involved since groundbreaking. It all seemed overwhelming at the time. What I've learned is that persistence and patience are necessary for successful gardening. I've learned more than I can recount from the other volunteers. Having been part of this entire year's cycle has provided experience and confidence to do a much better job helping others to garden. For instance, in the Master Gardener Office, I received a phone call from a novice gardener working on her first effort at a garden and compost pile. I learned about composting and vegetable garden basics along with so many dedicated and knowledgeable folks that I could provide her authentic suggestions and encouragement. All of these experiences have helped me with my own gardening. I've even learned to enjoy weeding; well, more than I used to anyway!" Carole

G) "I joined the Master Gardener program because I was totally lacking in knowledge about growing things in this part of the country and had been unsuccessful trying to grow many things. I have already learned an incredible amount, both from the classes and from working in the demonstration gardens. Just working alongside someone who understands and is willing to answer all kinds of questions has given me more confidence in attempting to have a real garden, and has inspired me to try. The vegetable garden group has been very accepting of my lack of knowledge and very helpful in teaching me what I need to know to successfully grow vegetables at home." Rachel

H) "Perhaps the biggest mistake we made, or at least the one that caused the biggest loss of produce, was to not adequately protect from hungry animals. Either a squirrel or a rabbit consumed a whole row of lettuce. We tried fox urine, but the rain rinsed it away.

We tried a trap, but the critter didn't take the bait. The garden is fenced, but not firmly enough to keep out small animals. And, it was not practical to try an electric fence. We will have to come up with an alternate plan when we plant this fall's crop of greens."
Sue

Survey Responses from Visitors at the Fall Open House, 2011

- A) "I like all of the flowers, but maybe you could plant more veggies. Veggies are delicious and beautiful, especially the flowers." Joy
- B) "Glad to see a veggie garden now." Connie
- C) "Newspaper article was great! Would like to see more herbs, but maybe it wasn't the correct time of the year." Celeste
- D) "Well done—even got my son to help in the compost pile. Greenhouse man was helpful." Nathan
- E) "Beautiful bed arrangements. Your herb and vegetable garden is superb!" Amelia
- F) "Good to see vegetable garden. Learned butterflies like manure." Lana
- G) "Liked the vegetable garden. A good addition." Oliver
- H) "Very nice. Liked vegetable garden this year." Laurie

Survey Responses of Visitors at the Spring 2012 Open House

A) There were many varied responses to the question: "Which plant(s) that you learned about will you plant in your yard?" Responses and numbers of responses included:

Vegetables (9)	Hydroponics (3)
Asparagus (1)	Tomatoes (2)
Brazilian sage (3)	Potatoes (2)
Pole Beans (1)	Rosemary (1)
Peppers (1)	Tarragon (1)
Spike lavender (1)	

B) Other comments included:

"Very surprised to see such great root veggies and others here (potatoes, onions, etc.). We moved here from the Pacific NW—although lived in Tampa for 10 years." Jan

"We had so much help for our vegetables and yard." Frances

Comment from a certified master gardener who started a vegetable garden at her church after observing the demonstration vegetable garden

"Through observation of the Leon County Extension Center vegetable garden and through the assistance of Trevor we at Holy Comforter Episcopal Church were able to start a garden to provide fresh vegetables as part of our weekly food pantry items given to local families in need of food. In the fall over 50 gallon-sized bags of collard, mustard, and turnip greens were given out. We are currently giving out fresh tomatoes (10-20 sandwich-sized bags of cherry tomatoes and 10-20 large tomatoes each week)" Susan