



THE PEOPLE'S
GARDEN
INITIATIVE IN
CALIFORNIA



The People's Garden Initiative in California FSA Offices:

Santa Maria—The Farm Service Agency in Santa Maria is a partner in the Community Garden Plot at Allan Hancock

The local United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Service Center's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Cachuma Resource Conservation District (CRCD) have partnered with Allan Hancock College (AHC) to establish a People's Garden in Santa Maria, California. With the support of AHC President, Dr. José Ortiz, the College has allowed the garden to be planted on school property. The college is also generously donating the water for the project and staff time to help with the irrigation system installation. The vegetable and demonstration conservation practice garden is located off South College Drive behind Allan Hancock's softball field, next to the school vineyard.

Volunteers have secured donations from local businesses and groups such as Pacific Ag Water, Greenheart Nursery and Growing Grounds: Transitions-Mental Health Association. Service Center employees and volunteers helped with initial planting of the garden and will continue to maintain it throughout the year. The produce will be donated to local non-profits, food banks and Allan Hancock's culinary department.

The People's Garden Initiative is an effort by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) which challenges its employees to establish People's Gardens at USDA facilities worldwide or help communities create gardens. People's Gardens vary in size and type, but all have a common purpose - to help the community they're within and the environment.



Brenda Farias, CED for the Farm Service Agency in Santa Barbara-Ventura Counties, is carrying a hoe as she steps out of the garden she works on along with NRCS staff members.



A second view of the People's Garden in Santa Maria shows the size of the garden.

The participants have just finished planting their winter crops.

Produce from the garden is donated to the local food bank.

Modoc

The Alturas Service Center People's Garden for 2011 is again an herb garden as it was in 2010. Chives, mint, rosemary, basil, oregano, parsley, and sage are growing with most coming back from previous year plantings. The garden is for viewing and smelling just outside the Service Center entrance. There is no plan to harvest the herbs this year. They are there for the taking if someone comes by and would like some. The chives have flowered and the mint is flowering now. Deer have not bothered the garden this year.



Modoc County CED, Chris Lupe, established the first FSA People's Garden several years ago after a trip to Washington DC. He and his staff have maintained and harvested the garden each year since it was established.



The People's Garden Initiative in California Schools

A Message from the Farm Service Agency's State Executive Director:

The Farm Service Agency is pleased to provide seeds to school gardens in support of USDA's People's Garden Initiative. School gardens promote a greater awareness and appreciation of all kinds of agricultural production to all students and they also play an important role in bridging the divide between urban and rural communities and between farmers and consumers.

California agriculture is a dynamic force in the state's overall economy and we look forward to working with schools throughout the state that are interested in participating in the People's Garden program.

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School gardens designated as People's Gardens

Garden Name	Town	County
Alexander Valley School Garden	Healdsburg	Sonoma
Appleby School Gardens	Blythe	Riverside
Captain Ray's Corral	Long Beach	Los Angeles
Clay Joint elementary School Garden	Kingsburg	Fresno
Helen Lehman Elementary School Garden	Santa Rosa	Sonoma
Independence High School Garden	Brentwood	Contra Costa
Margaret White Box Garden	Blythe	Riverside
Ms. Brackx's Class Garden	Escondido	San Diego
Prestwood School Garden	Sonoma	Sonoma
Ruth Brown Gardens	Blythe	Riverside
The Science Garden Biella School	Santa Rosa	Sonoma
Whitmore Wildcat Community Garden	Whitmore	Shasta County

Seeds for School Gardens and Community People's Gardens

Schools interested in designating their gardens as People's Gardens can request to register them through any Farm Service Agency Office.

The Farm Service Agency is supporting the People's Garden Initiative by providing seeds to school gardens. Seeds are also available to community gardens that designate their gardens as People's Gardens. Seeds are available free of charge to schools for use in the school gardens and community People's Gardens from the Farm Service Agency. This year for spring and summer there are pumpkins, corn, beans (bush or pole), zucchini, Kale, carrots, lettuce, onions and cucumbers. available. None of the seeds have been treated with fungicides. Planting directions are listed at the bottom of the page. The available seeds types vary throughout the year.

Requests for Seeds

Requests for seeds can be made through any FSA office or by sending an email request to: Beverlee.block@ca.usda.gov

Signs for the People's Garden

If you register your garden as a People's Garden on line, be sure and check the block for a sign. The sign will be sent to you as soon as it becomes available.

WHAT CONSTITUTES A PEOPLE'S GARDEN?

A PEOPLE'S GARDEN SHOULD: BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY

Gardens can benefit communities in many different ways such as:

- Creating spaces for leisure or recreation
- Providing a harvest to a local food bank
- Providing food or shelter for wildlife
- Serving as a demonstration site to educate the public and raise awareness of issues related to USDA's mission such as natural resource conservation, nutrition, healthy eating, sustainable agriculture, forestry, etc.

BE A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT

The garden must be created and maintained by a partnership of individuals, groups, or organizations or other USDA Agencies.

INCORPORATE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

The garden must include practices that nurture, protect or enhance natural resources such as but not limited to:

- Utilizing rain barrels for irrigation, or using water efficient irrigation systems
- Xeriscaping
- Composting, mulching, or use of cover crops
- Planting native species
- Encouraging beneficial insects
- Erosion control
- Stormwater management

Getting Involved

The Farm Service Agency is interested in partnering with other agencies, nonprofits or civic groups to establish gardens in support of the initiative.

There are many options for developing gardens. Some possibilities include:

- Traditional gardens with fruits, vegetables, herbs, etc.
- Crop or conservation practice demonstration gardens
- Organic gardens
- Native plantings
- Rain gardens or roof gardens
- Bioswales (landscaping to remove silt and pollutants)
- Tree plantings to encourage carbon sequestration
- Children's gardens
- Pollinator or butterfly gardens
- Other educational gardens

Planting Directions for the seeds distributed for the People's Garden are listed below. The planting season was provided for the Stockton area and will vary with your location.

Name/Variety	Planting Season	Inches Between Rows	Inches apart in a row after thinning	Depth (inches)	Days to Germination	Days to Harvest
Beans , bush	April-July	18-30	2-3	1.5	6-10	45-65
Beans , pole	April -July	36-48	4-6	1.5	6-10	60-70
Beets	March-September	12-18	2	½	7-12	55-65
Broccoli	Seed Jun-July Transplants: July- Sept.	24-30	14-18	¼	6-9	60-80T
Brussels sprouts	Seeds: June-July Transplants: July- Sept	24-30	12-18	¼	6-9	80-90T
Chard (Swiss)	Feb-May & August – October	18-24	4-8	½ - 1	7-12	55-65
Corn (Sweet)	March-July	30-36	8-14	1 ½	5-12	60-90
Kale	Jan-Mar & July- Sept.	18-24	8-12	½	3-10	55-80
Kohlrabi	Jan-Mar & July- Sept.	18-24	3-4	¼	3-10	60-70
Leek	Mar-May & Aug- Sept.	12-18	2-4	½-1	10-14	130-150
Lettuce (leaf)	Feb-May & Aug- Oct.	12-18	4-6	¼	5-10	45-60
(head)	Dec-Feb. & July-Oct.	18-24	12-14	¼	5-10	55-80
Onion	July- Aug	12-24	3-4	½	7-12	140-210
Peas	Feb- Mar & Aug-Oct	18-30	2-3	1	7-10	65-85
Pumpkins	May-July	70-120	30	1	7-12	90-120
Radish	Feb-May & August - October	6-12	1-2	½	3-6	20-50
Spinach	March- May & Sept- Nov	12-14	2-4	¾	7-12	40-60
Squash, Summer	March-July	36-60	16-24	1	7-10	50-60
Squash, Winter	March-July	72-120	24-48	1	7-10	70-120
Turnip	Aug, --Oct. & Feb. --Apr	15-18	1-3	¼	5-10	45-60

Blue Lake 274-57 days. 6.5" round dark green pods, 20" bush. Great flavor and performance has made this variety the standard for canning, freezing, shipping and home garden use.

Blue Lake Pole Beans. 63 days. Heavy yields of 6" straight stringless round pods of excellent flavor on a 6 ft. vine.

Detroit Dark Red Beets-60 days, the long-time standard in a general purpose beet. Uniform 3" globe shaped roots are sweet and smooth with good deep red coloring. Medium height leaves are also excellent for fresh greens and salad use.

Brussels Sprouts. Long Island Improved-90 days from transplant, standard open pollinated variety for market and home garden use.

Ruby Swiss Chard. 60 days, produces an attractive, upright plant with tasty, heavily crumpled dark green leaves, and crimson stalks that look like rhubarb.

Red Strawberry Popcorn. 105 days. 5' stalks with colorful 2" burgundy colored ears resembling strawberries, for decorating or popping. Pops into a small white flake.

Sweet Corn. Bodacious. 75 days. Exceptionally tender, sweet yellow kernels. Big 8" ears on 7 ft. plants.

Pumpkins

Jack-o-Lantern-110 days, smaller and more uniform, deep globe fruit 8 -12 ", 10 lbs. smooth slightly ribbed medium orange shell.

Small sugar Pie (New England)-110 days, smooth, deep orange, 7 to 8" slightly flattened fruits weigh 5 to 6 lbs. Sweet, fine flesh.

Cherry Belle Radish-23 days, bright cherry red color, crisp white flesh, tops are very short (2.5-3") even in warm weather. Popular for bunching.

Summer Squash:

Ambassador-51 day Hybrid zucchini extremely smooth dark green 7" to 8" long cylindrical fruit, crisp, white flesh. High yielding compact bush, with open habitat for easy picking.

Gold Rush-52 day hybrid, straight, cylindrical, 7" to 8" long, deep golden zucchini, with a rich green stem and creamy white flesh, delectable flavor.

Sunburst-50 days, early, productive yellow hybrid scallop. Compact bush plants produce high yields of bright yellow fruit with green sunburst pattern at blossom and stem ends. Pick when 2.5 to 3".

Open Pollinated Summer Types

Black Beauty Zucchini-55-60 days, very dark green skin, 6 to 8 ", with very good texture and flavor. Medium large bush with large, dark green, slightly notched leaves.

Early White Bush Scallop-60 days, a flattened scallop type with creamy white color when mature. Bush type plant.

Early Yellow Summer Crookneck-55 days, 5 to 7" light yellow fruit are bulbous at blossom end with a slender curved neck relatively smooth at picking stage. Medium large bush.

**Winter Squash,
Open Pollinated Winter Types**

Waltham Butternut-85-90 days, a superior O.P. butternut type, with excellent quality and flavor. Light tan, smooth, 2 to 3 lb. fruits are 8 to 10" long, 4.5" diameter, with a 5.5" bulbous blossom end.

Turnips. Purple top white globe-55 days. An outstanding, widely adapted, all purpose variety. 4 to 5" oblate roots are smooth white with purple top, 18-22 inches, dark green, serrated edible leaves.

Peas—Oregon Trail-60 days, bush shell pea developed by Oregon State University with 4" pods containing up to 9 sweet Peas. Excellent market and home garden variety sets twin pods and is also suitable for mechanical harvesting. Good disease resistance.

Broccoli Raab. (Early Fall Rapini)-55-60 days. Italian Specialty, harvested for tender greens and small florets. Use in salads or cooking.

Onion. Walla Walla Sweet-184 days, prized for its exceptionally mild and delicious flavor, adapted to either fall or early spring planting.

Spinach. 43 days open pollinated type with thick textured, heavy dark green, fully savory (crinkled) leaves. Dependable, productive and slow bolting.

Lettuce. Mesclun Mix. This is a special blend of 18 lettuces, endives, and chicories that is a complete salad mix. Has a wide variety of colors, textures and flavors to make a market or home favorite. Start harvesting in 4 to 6 weeks.

Kale. Lacinato (dinosaur) 62 days, cool season crop planted early spring or late summer. This 18th century heirloom is prized by gourmet cooks for its flavor which is enhanced by frost. Also known as Dinosaur kale and black Tuscan kale, it is highly nutritional and ornamental.

Kohlrabi. Early white Vienna. 55 days, 8 to 10 inch plants with greenish white leaves, stems and bulbs. Good variety for home and market growers. Boil, stir-fry or eat raw.