

## YAMHILL COUNTY, OREGON

### OMGA QUARTERLY REPORT

APRIL, MAY, & JUNE 2021

Work in the Greenhouse this year with COVID restrictions has been quite difficult. We were limited with the number of people who could work in the greenhouse instead of our larger crew. We were still able to produce all of the annuals and vegetables that we usually produce for the plant sale.

The Yamhill Master Gardeners held their first on-line plant sale this Spring. Shopping and ordering took place through Shopify, starting in April. Drive through pick up of orders happened for 6 days in early May. Almost 40% of the sold plants were vegetables, 20% were perennials, the rest were from various categories (ground covers, annuals, herbs, etc.). We had 383 completed online sales. In total, we earned \$18,700 from the Plant Sale, which was \$5,000 more than anticipated. It required a lot more work than a regular face to face sale, but proved to be a winning choice for pandemic conditions.

YCNGA was able to award 3 scholarships of \$1,000. Each to seniors graduating from Yamhill County High Schools who plan to major in a field related to horticulture. We had several highly qualified applicants and the decisions were difficult.

The McMinnville Community Garden is in full swing. They have 25 bed gardeners, all of whom are veterans of the Garden. We are not bringing in any new gardeners this year because of the pandemic. All gardeners are working under strict protocols and have assigned days and times to tend their beds in order to maintain proper social distancing.

Gardeners, Core Team members and volunteers grew tomato and basil starts for YCMGA's plant sale. We provided a total of 517 plants of which 459 were sold. The remaining 78 were distributed to nonprofits in McMinnville. YTD we have harvested and provided 616 pounds of fresh produce (mostly greens and herbs)

to the regional food bank at YCAP. Another 418 pounds have been distributed through the McMinnville Cooperative Ministries food table.

We have been hard at work getting the YCMGA Demo Garden cleaned up and ready for summer. Some old non-productive plants have been replaced with more drought tolerant and pollinator friendly species. Other areas are being renovated and rejuvenated including the water fountain and the sundial. The annual beds and barrels have been planted. The rose garden is in full bloom and it is already time to begin deadheading them to keep them blooming.

The YCMGA has completed two online beginning gardening classes as part of their Garden to Table project. The Garden to Table project has several components including a 6-week online class, participant mentoring, raised beds or containers for home gardens or Community Garden space, and seeds and plants.

A total of 40 Yamhill County participants completed the Zoom classes (Feb. and April). The weekly presentations covered the basics of vegetable gardening from garden space and garden plans, soil, planting/transplanting, maintenance, harvesting and food storage/preservation. There were 6 instructors. A booklet was given to all participants which contained supporting materials for the classes and additional resources that could be accessed individually.

We feel our Garden to Table classes were a success. The mentoring program has good potential to increase the sustainability and level of success of individual gardeners, especially if they are less experienced. The providing of the raised beds, containers and Community Garden space along with the plants have given the participants a jump start with their gardens. This project has provided volunteer involvement for approximately 20% of the active Yamhill County Master Gardeners during the shutdown this past year.

Submitted by: POLLY BLUM, OMGA Representative

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