

Lexington Interfaith Garden

Final Report for 2016

Season 7



The Garden 4/2/16

		Pounds delivered to the Lex Food Pantry
Year 1	2010	995
Year 2	2011	854
Year 3	2012	1,637
Year 4	2013	1,593
Year 5	2014	2,015
Year 6	2015	1,666
Year 7	2016	1,740
Since Inception		10,500

This past season 1,740 pounds of fresh produce were delivered to the Lexington Food Pantry. 2016 was the 2nd best year in terms of yield, having only been bested back in 2014 when we had a banner harvest totaling 2,015 pounds. That brings the total produce from this garden to 10,500 pounds since inception.... That's over 5 tons in the 7 years we have been working together.



The Garden 5/23/16

The 10 biggest crops this year? Bok choy and tomatoes were neck and neck. You can find below the list of top 10 vegetables grown.

	Total Lbs.
Bok Choy	221.3
Tomatoes	216.5
Eggplant	129.5
Squash	117.5
Zucchini	101.5
Potatoes	100.5
Cabbage	76.0
Peppers	74.5
Swiss Chard	68.0
Butternut Squash	66.5

All in all, there were 44 varieties of produce grown. Spots 11 thru 43 were: cherry tomatoes, acorn squash, green beans, cucumbers, lettuce, radishes, rhubarb, pumpkins, broccoli, onions, basil, arugula, leeks, purslane, beets, Oriental peas, regular peas, carrots, mint, cauliflower, scallions, parsley, garlic, tarragon, dill, spinach, chives, kale, raspberries, sage, thyme, rosemary, and oregano.



The Garden 6/16

This Garden cannot be successful without a lot of folks helping. It was open 59 days over 33 weeks. We had 494 people sign the book in the barn. And, amazingly, 213 different people worked. Some came once, others numerous times....one volunteer was there almost every Saturday, helping 26 times over the season. (Thank you, Mark!)

Many of our volunteers came from the faith community partners that committed to support with manpower and financial resources. That includes Church of our Redeemer, First Parish, Follen, Temple Emunah, Chinese Bible Church of Greater Boston, Hancock UCC, Temple Isaiah, St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox, Islamic Center of Wayland, the Lexington Catholic Community of St. Brigid's and Sacred Heart, First Baptist, a small group from Grace Chapel (the Holy Cannolis), and Pilgrim Church. Other groups that scheduled a day of service were Brownie Troop #89002, the Lexington Garden Club, Grace Chapel and a local Latter Day Saints congregation. And then we had many folks from the community

that found us through word of mouth or online, liked the idea of providing fresh food for the Food Pantry and kept coming.

Thanks also to Alix B. and the re-installed bee hives. The bees were very happy in their new location and who doesn't believe that the Garden benefited? Yields have been much higher since 2012 when bees first were tried on the property.



The Garden 8/27/16

The Garden sports a garden angel, not a scarecrow. You can see her in the picture above if you look beyond the glare. ☺ She did a pretty good job until much later in the season when the rabbits and other small animals chomped away. But the real garden angel was in our midst almost every Tuesday afternoon and Saturday morning...Carla. This project would not be so impactful without Carla and her gift of space

and knowledge. She graciously shared her time, energy, and love of gardening with all the rest of us. And in turn her gifts enabled us to come together as a community to grow and nurture the bounty that got wheeled over to the Pantry.



The Garden, 10/31/16

The Garden closed at the end of October. Planning and organizing will start again in late winter, with an eye to start prepping the Garden around mid-March 2017.... weather allowing. Would you be interested in helping behind the scenes? We can use you! Let me know if you are interested. Until then, remember the words of the wise philosopher, Anonymous, "You don't need a reason to help others."