



GARDENERS
T I O N A L

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Somerville, MA

Health Alliance, Somerville, MA

The 2013 SpringHillGarden season has seen such variations in weather! From a dry April to one of the wettest June's on record, currently breaking records for heat. Through it all, the volunteers in the Firmly Planted garden group, with support from neighbors and hospital staff have been meeting weekly. Our KGI Garden Planner was completed by our Urban Ag intern from the City-who had a hard time keeping up with the gardeners' weekly flurry of activity in May and early June! We have eager gardeners waiting for the standing gardens we are ordering to arrive, in time to be planted with late summer crops, allowing for improved access for participants who find it easier to garden while standing. Meanwhile, we love harvesting using our colorful Tubtrugs. Our earliest contributions to the HIV Food Pantry here at the hospital have included: kale that wintered over, spring green onions (early Egyptian Walking Onions), lettuces, radishes, chard and bok choy. Beans, tomatoes, squash, basil, peppers, cukes and tomatillos will be the heat loving crops in later summer. And happily, our volunteer purslane has returned, for the rice and greens dish favored by local Haitians. The Kid's Garden was planted during April vacation week and they have been enjoying lettuce, while waiting for their beans, tomatoes, and sunflowers to be ready to pick. Neighbors and employees all enjoy watching the garden come into its glory, enjoying the border of bulbs and perennials and congratulating us on the recognition from KGI this year!

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