



KITCHEN GARDENERS INTERNATIONAL

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Update from Unity Garden!

Sun, 06/30/2013 - 21:08 -- FishCandy Farmstead

Unity Garden was very fortunate to be a recipient of a grant from KGI this year! The garden is located in Stilwell Kansas, in southern Johnson County Kansas. We started the garden in 2011 from raw pasture donated to us. We have worked very hard to convert the land (just under $\frac{3}{4}$ ac.) and grow in a No-Till setting, which means we do not disturb the soil layers in any way. The soil is very rich!

As with any project, we have seen the waxing and waning of volunteers over the year, but in the end there are those staunchly dedicated folks that keep it all running. With the seeds we received, we have been able to grow transplants for the garden, and sell some of the extras to our church community to raise even more funding to keep the project sustainable. With some of the funds we received, we ordered our potatoes and they are growing well despite a slow spring this year with late season snowstorms and too much rain. Our potatoes, onions, garlic have slowly recovered and we are planning more plantings of a whole variety of produce, some for a fall harvest. We also purchased organic sweet potato slips from K-State University. The book we chose from Storey publishing is, ?How To Grow A School Garden?, which we have utilized in part of our summer camp at church. Our young preschoolers have an herb, veggie and herb patch on the church grounds.

As the season progresses we look forward to providing our abundance of produce to the families at Head Start of Shawnee Mission. This is our second year to team with them and they so appreciate how our ?goodie bags? help them stretch their food budget and provides healthy alternatives for their families. Our KGI grant is helping us be educators and good community partners.

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Update from Unity Garden

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