

Food Forest Project 2013

5/15. Removed dead trees from stations 2, 3, and 5. Planted replacement pear trees for these stations. Stations 7, 8, 11, and 12 are new for 2013 and pear trees were planted at these stations. Watered new trees.

10am-12:30pm

5/17. Removed dead trees from stations 26 and 27. Planted replacement pear trees at these stations. Stations 13, 14, 19, 20, 22, 34, and 35 are new for 2013. Apple trees were planted at each station. Watered new trees.

8:30am-12:30pm

6/08. Removed weeds, planted blackberries, mulched, and watered blackberries. Staked newly planted trees and cut garlic scapes (70 scapes).

9:30am-4:30pm

6/11. Weeded and mulched between most trees.

6:30am-9:30pm

6/15. Weeded, mulched, and planted marigolds and nasturtiums. Ground was very hard and dry.

7am-9:30am

6/22. Finished mulching. Ended early due to Thunderstorms.

1pm-2:30pm

6/29. Picked up 4 lg. pots of red raspberries and 30 strawberry plants (mix of June-bearing and Ever-bearing) from Bethany in Lincoln Il.

5pm-7pm

6/30. Tilled soil for planting. Planted red raspberries and strawberries. Took pictures of pear trees at stations 24 and 25 to have evaluated for possible disease and insect damage. Ground still a little wet from rain. Stopped early due to rain.

8:30am-1:30pm

Total time: 22.5

7/6. Weeded all beds and around fruit trees. Harvested garlic that was planted around each tree. 60 garlic bulbs total. Tilled compost into four beds of the north row. Ground is extremely hard and dry. Planted onions, marigolds, and nasturtiums.

8:30am-2:30pm

7/20. Weeded. Tilled compost into four beds of the north row. Soil is hard and dry. Soil moisture continues to be a problem even with good rainfall.

8:30am-11:30am

On 7/6 and 7/20, Planted root vegetable seed and herb seeds. All of the following are beneficial companion plants. A brief description of the benefit offered by each plant is listed.

- Nasturtiums- Nasturtiums are good companion plants, they attract hoverflies that will feed on aphids
- Lemon balm- attracts pollinators
- Sweet marigold- helps control pests like aphids nematodes and beetles
- Bunching onions- good fall crop that offers pest control for other plants, the shallow rooting of this plant will also provide space for larger rooting plants to grow
- Rutabaga- good fall crop. Does not have an antagonistic relationship with the other plants in this system.
- Parsnip- good fall crop. Does not have an antagonistic relationship with the other plants in this system.
- Stevia- Helps to repel aphids.
- Spearmint- helps to repel cabbage moths, aphids, and flea beetles
- Asparagus- helps to repel a variety of nematodes and will do well with other plants in this system

7/26. Tilled compost into beds of the middle row in preparation for planting a cover crop of white clover, daikon radish, and buckwheat.

The cover crops will help to improve soil health and will help with pest control for the 2014 crop.

- The large tap root of the Daikon radish will help with soil compaction, improves drainage and air movement through the soil, helps suppress nematodes and attracts earthworms.
- The white clover will attract pollinators and will help fix nitrogen. The buckwheat will also attract pollinators and take up phosphorus that is otherwise unavailable to crops, and then releases these nutrients to later crops as the residue breaks down.

9:30-11:30am

8/02. Planted cover crops of buckwheat, white clover, and Daikon radish.

9:30-11:30

8/15. Checked new plantings. Good stand of buckwheat. Other plantings starting to emerge. Weeded. 26 of the 30 strawberry plants survived and have healthy new foliage.

8:30-10:00am

8/16. Weeded and watered.

9:30-11:30

8/23. Watered. Purchased soaker hose.

9:45-10:45

Total time: 17.5hrs