

# HELP OUR GARDEN GROW!

Sign up to volunteer by adopting a week. Adopting a week involves visiting the garden 2-3 times during your assigned week to water, weed, harvest, and deliver produce, as needed. We will provide you with further instructions if interested.

Food donation gardens have the power to build community and feed our families, friends, and neighbors.



## FOLLOW US

Stay up to date on what's growing at the garden by following us on Facebook.



Like us on Facebook

@ThePilotGarden

## CONTACT US

Call Anne Townsend at 618-833-6363 or email your availability at [cupquake@illinois.edu](mailto:cupquake@illinois.edu)

University of Illinois Extension  
Pulaski/Alexander Counties  
502 Oakley Lane  
Mounds, IL 62964  
Phone: 618-745-5200

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If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, please contact Kim Rohling at 618-658-5321. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time for meeting your access needs.



## THE PILOT GARDEN: CAIRO'S FOOD DONATION GARDEN

413 31st Street  
Cairo, IL 62914

Open dawn to dusk  
March through October



Illinois Extension  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN





## ABOUT OUR GARDEN

The Pilot Garden: Cairo's Food Donation Garden is a partnership between Daystar, Southern 7 Health Department, and University of Illinois Extension. We installed the garden in 2021. We have grown 1,930 pounds of produce.

This garden was created to grow produce to combat food insecurity in Cairo. Our main funding source is Growing Together Illinois, which is funded by University of Illinois Extension's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education.

Produce is grown, harvested, weighed, and donated to Daystar food pantry by volunteers like you, providing a fresh source of produce to pantry clients.

Visit the pollinator garden beds to see native perennial plants providing food and shelter for bees and butterflies.

Through a donation from the Autism Society of Southern Illinois, The Pilot Garden also contains a sensory garden, designed for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Five raised beds, each dedicated to a different sense, are arranged in the center of the garden to provide an interactive garden experience.

These gardens are open for all to care for, visit, and experience. No previous garden experience is required to volunteer.



## GARDEN CHECKLIST

### WATER

Check to see if the beds need to be watered by putting your finger in the soil - if it feels dry, it's time to water. Soak the raised beds by watering the base of the plants, and try to avoid wetting the leaves. Don't forget to turn off the hose and wind it up when you are finished.

### WEED

Some of these plants aren't like the others. Each bed will be labeled with the crop planted. Weed anything else. Unsure if it is a weed? Text a photo to Kim Rohling for identification. Put weeds and over-ripe produce in a garbage bag and throw trash away to keep the site clean for all visitors to enjoy. Please inform us if we have insect pests.

### HARVEST

If vegetables are ready to harvest, pick and wash them according to the harvest guide. Use tools and harvest bins in the shed next to the garden. Wash off leafy greens and root vegetables using the washing station.

### DELIVER

Deliver harvest to Daystar as soon as possible to keep food fresh. Daystar's address is 909 Washington Avenue, Cairo. Their hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, from 9:30am - 1pm. Make sure to weigh everything by produce type and log the weights at Daystar. Package clean produce into serving sizes. Please log your volunteer time at the garden or contact Kim to report your hours.