

2023

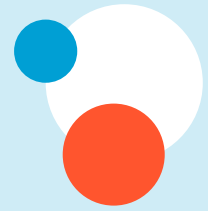
PLANT A ROW, WATCH COPE GROW FOOD DONATION GARDEN

Annual Report



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

ABOUT US



The Plant a Row, Watch COPE Grow Food Donation Garden is a partnership between University of Illinois Extension and COPE. Established in 2018, the garden has received over \$25,000 in donations and grant funding. Community volunteers have given about 500 hours of time to planting, tending, and harvesting produce. To date we've grown over 1,850 pounds of produce, all donated to COPE.

2023 Highlights

Pounds grown: 593
Volunteer hours given: 180

We had a great spring season this year, with temperatures staying consistently cool. This provided us with a great crop of peas, greens, and root vegetables.

We were fortunate to receive donation funds at the end of the garden season to support our work in 2024. Jeffrey Isbell with Meridian Healthcare provided almost \$5,000 worth of funds to help us expand and improve the garden next season. Stay tuned for our expansion!

Our Volunteers

We are grateful to our dedicated volunteers who gave of their time to plant and tend the garden!

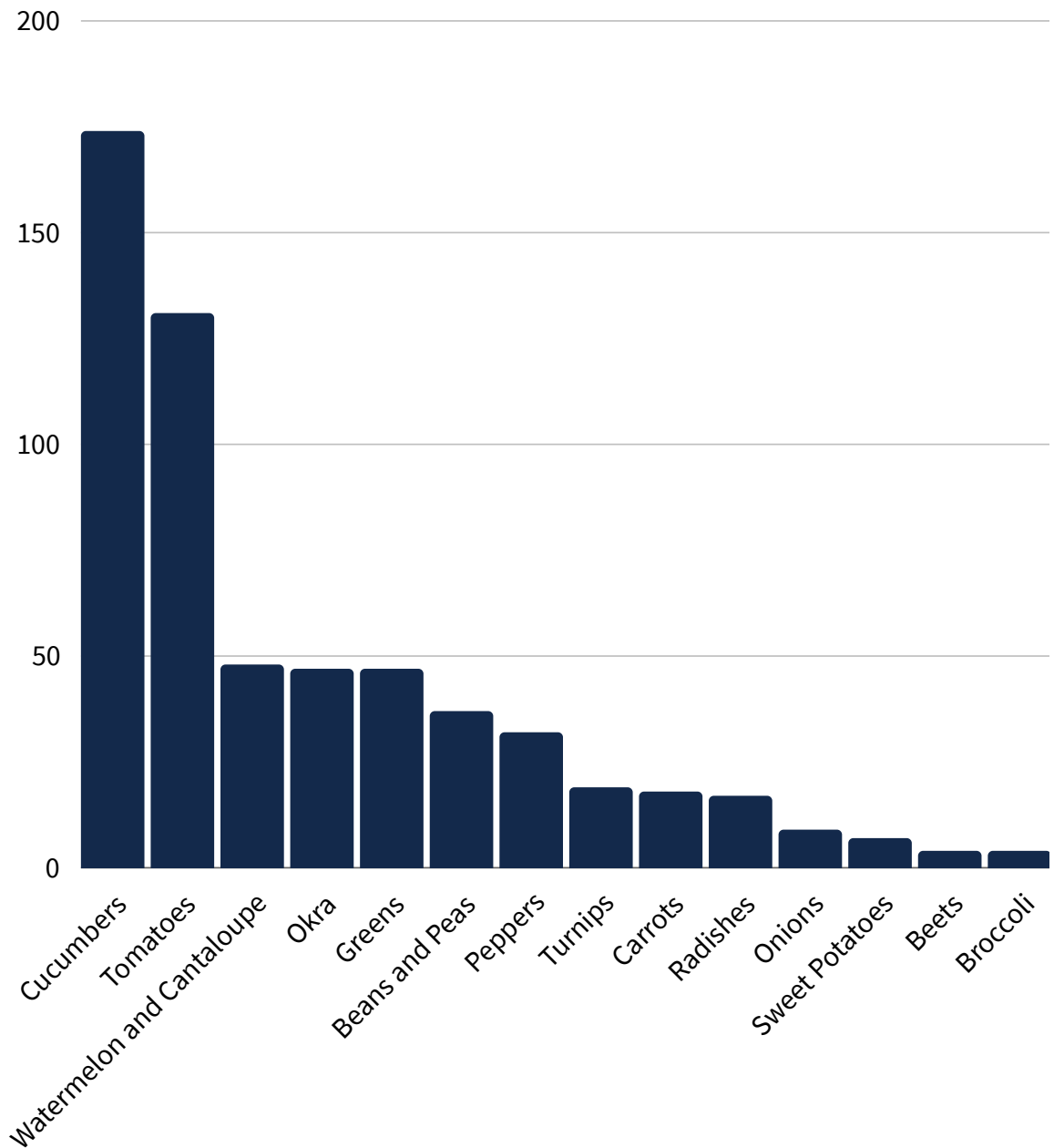
Thank you to the following individuals and organizations who volunteered or donated this year:

- Hope Light Foundation
- Thrive Green Team, led by Kara Sullivan
- Rebecca Hannum
- Kayla, Harper, and Justin Reineking
- Sean Pegram
- Desiree and Shirley Caldell
- Joyce Capser
- Memry Davis

BY THE NUMBERS



This year, the garden produced 593 pounds of produce, all of which was donated to COPE. Cucumbers were the top producer, with 174 pounds grown! We added snap and snow peas and mustard greens this year, and had our first successful onion crop.



FOR OUR COMMUNITY



SNAP Ed provided recipes, signage, and other nutrition education materials to COPE food pantry to compliment the harvested produce.

Nutrition education was also provided for guests through Eat.Move.Save booths at the pantry.



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