

2024

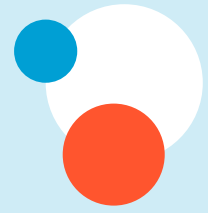
THE PILOT GARDEN: CAIRO'S FOOD DONATION GARDEN

Annual Report



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

ABOUT US



The Pilot Garden: Cairo's Food Donation Garden is a partnership between University of Illinois Extension, Daystar Community Programs, and Southern 7 Health Department. Established in 2021, the garden has received over \$61,700 in donations, grant funding, and volunteer time. Community volunteers have given over 1,400 hours of time to planting, tending, and harvesting produce. To date we've grown over 4,250 pounds of produce, all donated to Daystar Community Programs.

2024 Highlights

Pounds grown: 1350
Volunteer hours given: 367

We added 18 new raised beds to the garden this spring with funding from Meridian Healthcare.

Ten of the new beds were added to provide one raised bed for each class at Cairo Elementary to plant, care for, and harvest while they visit the garden monthly during Garden Tales. Any excess produce grown in these beds is donated to Daystar. The other 8 beds were added for perennial fruits and vegetables like berries and asparagus.

Our Volunteers

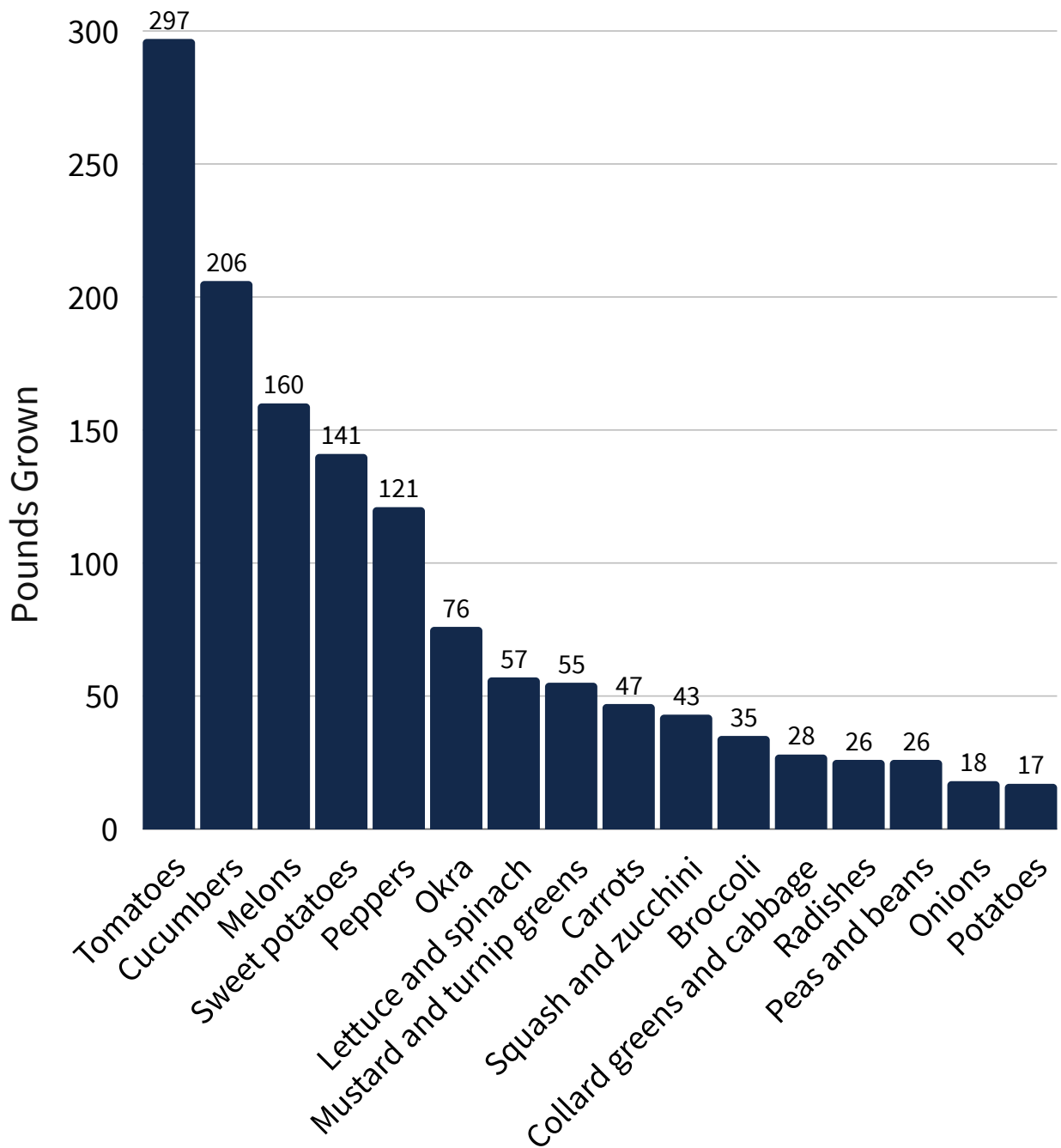
We are grateful to our dedicated volunteers who gave of their time to plant and tend the garden! Our volunteers who adopt a week, those that help at Open House events, and Cairo Elementary students that help once a month ALL work to make this garden a success.

Thank you to the organizations and individuals that support the garden, including Deb Davis, Lions Club of Mounds, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, NAACP, Might Rivers Worship Center, Loyola Academy, St. Ann School of Nashville, and Illinois American Water.

BY THE NUMBERS



This year, the garden produced 1350 pounds of produce, all of which was donated to Daystar Community Programs. See the breakdown of what we grew below.



GARDEN TALES

During Garden Tales, our monthly garden program for students at Cairo Elementary, students come to the garden to learn about a different nature-themed topic, listen to a story, and then complete a craft or activity. New this year, students planted seeds, harvested produce, and taste tested what they grew.

We reached 104-170 students monthly.



OUR VOLUNTEERS



SNAP ED

**EAT.
MOVE.
SAVE.**

Nutrition education provided by SNAP Ed staff was delivered at both garden and pantry sites, teaching our neighbors new and easy ways to prepare and store the harvested produce.

Participants were provided take home recipes and had opportunities to taste test a recipe featuring ingredients from the garden.



This institution is an equal opportunity provider. This material funded by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - SNAP. College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences. University of Illinois | United States Department of Agriculture | Local Extension Councils Cooperating.

