

2024

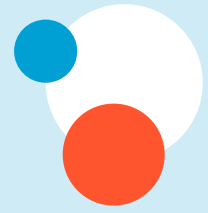
PLANT A ROW, WATCH COPE GROW FOOD DONATION GARDEN

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, COPE, and SIU Credit Union. Established in 2018, the garden has received over \$46,700 in donations, grant funding, and volunteer time. Community volunteers have given about 900 hours of time to planting, tending, and harvesting produce. To date we've grown over 4,200 pounds of produce, all donated to COPE.

2024 Highlights

Pounds grown: 2,380

Volunteer hours given: 405

The garden had its best year to date after moving to a new location. We thank our new partner and host site, SIU Credit Union.

The new location provided full sun and dry conditions. Funding from Meridian Healthcare allowed the garden to double in size. We also installed a fence.

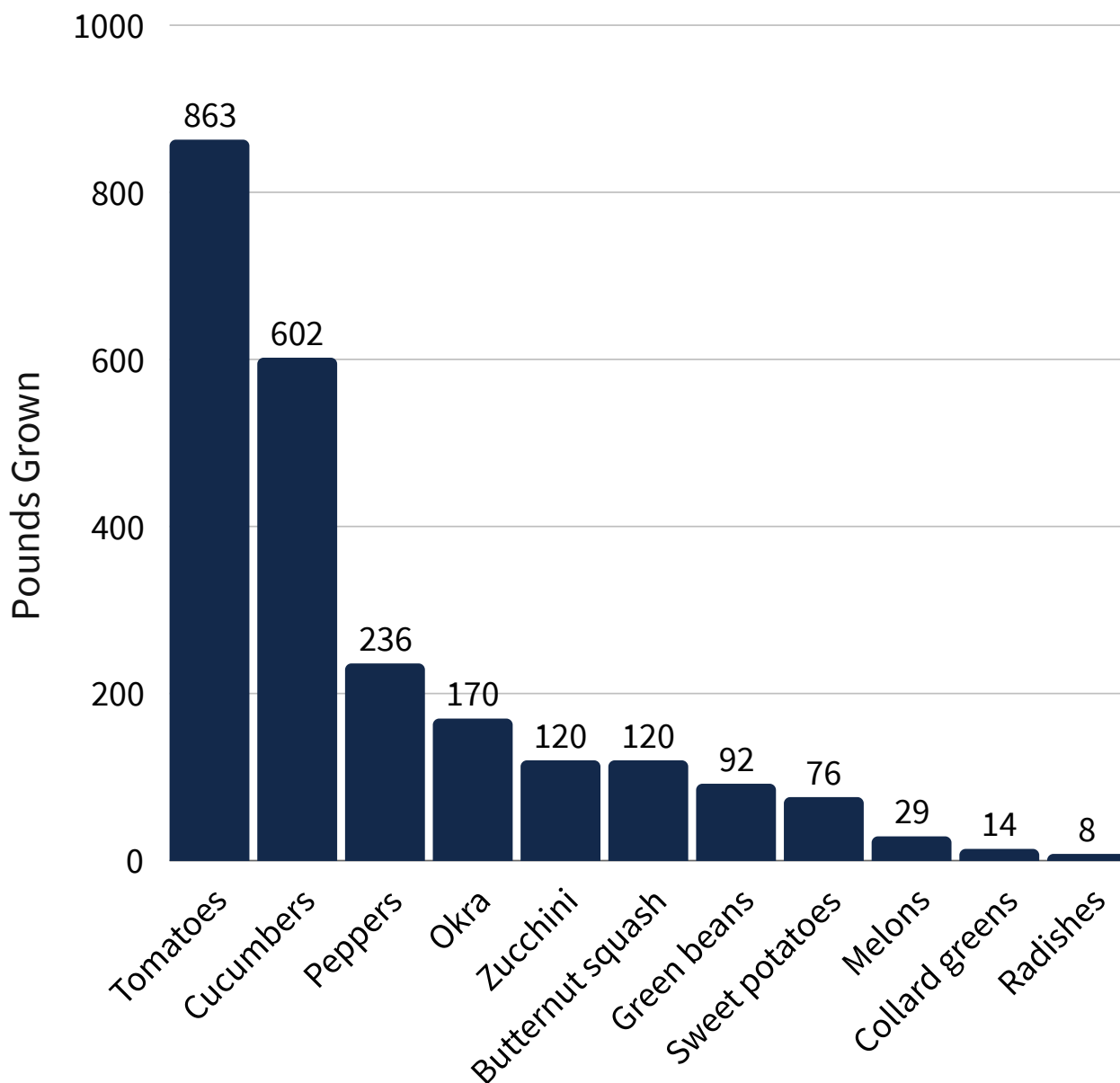
We are grateful to Massac FFA for moving the garden, installing new garden beds, and helping with fence installation. Special thanks to Thrive's Green Team for finishing building the fence. And thank you to Robin Mizell for fence building and mowing the garden weekly this season.

We thank our weekly garden volunteers, Kara Sullivan and family, MCDAC, the Reineking family, and Taylor Cruz and family. This year we grew more produce than we had in the previous 5 years combined! We were so happy to provide more fresh produce to COPE.

BY THE NUMBERS



This year, the garden produced 2,380 pounds of produce, all of which was donated to COPE. See below for the breakdown of what we grew.



FOR OUR COMMUNITY



Our Volunteers

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

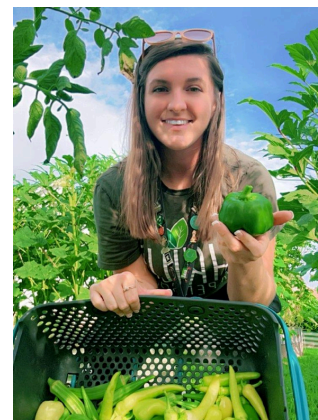
Thank you to the following individuals and organizations who volunteered or donated this year:

- SIU Credit Union
- Kiwanis
- Thrive Green Team, led by Kara Sullivan
- Kayla, Harper, and Justin Reineking
- Taylor Cruz and family
- Massac County Drug Awareness Coalition
- Robin Mizell
- Massac County FFA
- Rebecca Hannum

SNAP Ed

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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