

Dallas Youth Garden News 2019 Annual Summary

Our 2019 garden season was again a great success. Our season began in April when we accepted applications from 12 students with four returning from our 2018 season. Based on student applications and interviews we selected ten interns (an increase of one intern to our program). Interns started May 4th. Their first task was to develop a plan for their 25'x50' garden. The May weather was great for planting and plant starts provided by volunteers and the Master Gardeners were beautiful. In May, Maria Pritchett, a nursing student at WOU, joined us as a Senior Intern. This position created last season is jointly managed and funded by DYG and Polk County Family and Community Outreach. She was a wonderful addition to our program.



After planting, the interns started weeding and watering their gardens. This season we tested NOT mulching. Based on the weedy results of our tests we will go back to mulching in 2020. On June 22, we took a break from garden tasks and attended the Pollinators Festival at Dancing Oaks Nursery. The nursery is a wonderful place and interns got good information about Oregon pollinators from festival organizers and displays. June weather was mild but dry and we had to deal with an early bumper crop of cucumber beetles. Due to the weather and the hard work of our interns, we had our earliest harvest on June 24th.

The weather in July was not too hot. Interns worked hard to keep their gardens watered and, with the lack of mulch, spent a lot of time weeding. The cooler temps were pleasant to work in but did not contribute to larger harvests. Our 7th annual open house on July 23rd was a success. Family members, contributors, and the public got to learn about the garden and interns gave many individual tours. August weather was also cooler. Like in July, it was great working weather but kept our harvests lower than past years. In addition to weeding, watering and harvesting, interns again did well exhibiting vegetables, herbs, and flowers at the Polk County and State Fairs winning several champion ribbons. As in past years, we had our County Fair booth on Friday afternoon. This was a great opportunity for our interns to tell the public about our garden and to help raise funds for new garden tools by selling peaches (donated by Perryhill Farm).

The formal intern program ended in early September just after school started. Interns continued to help part-time, harvesting throughout September and helped to get the garden ready for winter on the first weekend of October. The late season help is critical in preparing the garden for next year's planting.



We had great support this year from a variety of individuals and organizations. Without the support of our volunteers, contributors, partner organizations and people like you the garden would not be possible.
Thank you!

Dean Anderson
Dallas Youth Garden Coordinator

Intern Accomplishments

- All interns successfully designed, planted and maintained their 25'x50' garden. They applied math skills to design and plant their gardens and track harvest quantities. They learned basic vegetable, flower, and herb garden production skills.
- Each intern learned basic job skills such as showing up to work on time, staying on task, workplace cooperation, taking direction, and managing vacation and sick time.
- Interns improved communication skills by giving garden tours, giving progress reports to our team and interacting with the public at our booth and open house.
- Each intern completed an education, communication, and garden improvement project.
- All interns obtained ribbons and awards for vegetable, flower or herb exhibits at the Polk County and Oregon State Fairs.
- Interns donated over 3100 pounds of produce to help feed over 300 families in our community.

For additional info please visit: www.dallasyouthgarden.org.