



2020 Garden Project Annual Update

ADAPTING TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY

2020 was the year of changing plans and rapid pivots to continue supporting our community in response to the pandemic and increased need for our services. We are proud to say that we took these new challenges head-on and not only maintained but increased our output in many areas. Using methods such as mailing seed orders, curbside vegetable transplant pick up, and virtual events, we were able to meet our commitments to help our community grow healthy food, foster self-sufficiency and empowerment, and build community connections.

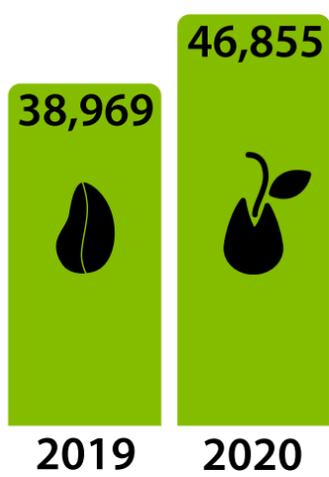


868,472 POUNDS

Despite one third of community gardens in our network being closed due to the pandemic, Garden Project estimates the 69 open gardens produced a whopping 868,472 pounds of produce in 2020. This is equivalent to 723,726 meals!

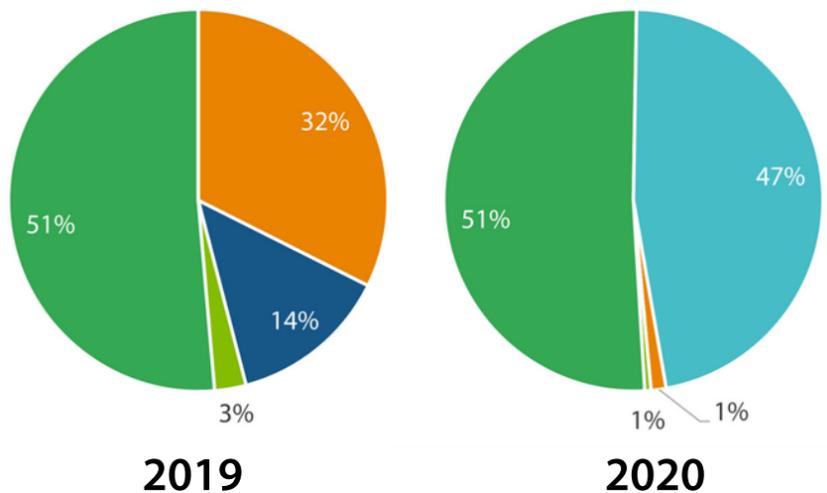
46,855 SEED PACKETS

Number Distributed



Seed distribution increased by 20% between 2019 and 2020 to serve 5,139 people in total this year.

Distribution Methods



- Garden to Go Bags
- Resource Center
- Events (0 in 2020)
- Bulk orders
- Mail (new for 2020)



4,000 GARDEN TO GO BAGS

Garden Project distributed 4,000 Garden to Go bags to 43 food pantries across seven counties between February and April. Garden to Go bags contain a collection of six easy-to-grow, common vegetables like lettuce, carrots, cucumbers, and squash. These are assembled each winter by teams of volunteers and then sent to food pantries across mid-Michigan. These seeds allow pantry recipients to supplement the emergency food assistance they receive with home-grown vegetables.

37,357 VEGETABLE TRANSPLANTS



Plant varieties grown in our greenhouse in 2020



Transplants grown by GLFB staff, a 21% increase from 19,756 seedlings in 2019



Transplants donated by five local organizations, plus 2,400 transplants purchased



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"This was such an odd year due to Covid [...] I can't wait to get back to volunteering on Thursday evenings! Despite social distancing, it was wonderful to see my 'garden family' back this year and to meet new people. One of the best things about Foster Garden is the way that everyone is so willing to help each other out."

**Post-Season Survey Respondent,
Foster Community Garden**

"This was my first time successfully growing my own food and I am so proud that I was able to do this. I know I will continue to build on this first experience and hope to continue to be able to share my excess produce with my neighbors and local free food stands."

**Post-Season Survey Respondent,
Home Gardener**

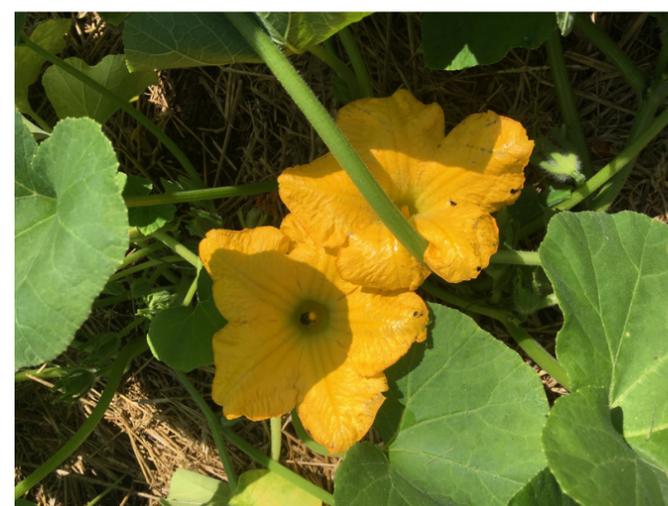


"I want to share that we have harvested 1,342 pounds of produce, along with 233 pounds of donated produce, for a total of 1,575 pounds of produce distributed to approximately 75 people. We still have broccoli, tomatoes(!), and sweet peppers in our garden, as of 10/14/20!"

**Post-Season Survey Respondent,
Williamston United Methodist
Church Food Bank Garden**

"I think things were done great this year. The accommodations made for COVID-19 were helpful for getting plants and seeds in safe way. Thank you for making it happen."

**Post-Season Survey Respondent,
Foster Community Garden**



"My garden was essential to sanity during our family's isolation/lockdown. Having a garden to plan, develop and grow gave us space to play and learn more about plants and caring for them, harvesting, etc. I'm going to miss it terribly when it hides under the snow and ice."

**Post-Season Survey Respondent,
Home Gardener**