

OFE Newsletter for January 20, 2022

This week we turned our attention to potatoes. We learned that the term potato is a generic term for a root crop vegetable. That it is not so much one particular plant but more a high in carbohydrate kind of storage entity (tuber) and is a popular vegetable due to its energy and nutrient content. In our gardens we plan for two crops of potatoes a year. And so the potato lesson comes at just the right time as it is time to start planting our white potato crop so that they can be harvested in May just before we plant our sweet potato crop for the next class in the fall!

As I alluded to in the last newsletter, the weather is a challenge at this time of year. This last week gardening was a bit chilly. Thus far, we've had to cover our more sensitive crops a couple of times already. While the weather hasn't been too cold so as to kill the citrus, there are many buds on the lemon bush in the orchard as well as a few on the navel oranges. If the flower buds freeze there will be no fruit for the year. After class on Thursday we had to once again in an attempt to protect the flower buds from being frozen. You may also see some frost clothes covering some of the more cold sensitive vegetables in the garden.

Even with all the cool weather our compost bins have continued to create more compost. The bin temperatures were above 120 degrees Fahrenheit while the ambient temperature was in the low 40's. There are a couple of pumpkins that have sprouted in the compost bins and we are taking note of whether the warm compost will protect the young plants. If you are nearby take a look in bin 1 but please don't disturb the new plants as we would like to see how they handle the cold.

Next week we will conclude the discussion on potatoes and will probably start prepping the soil beds for their planting.

We still need plastic grocery bags for putting the harvest in to take home at the end of day Thursday. So please make a mental note to check and see if your family can spare some of those grocery bags we'd love to have them.

See you next week!