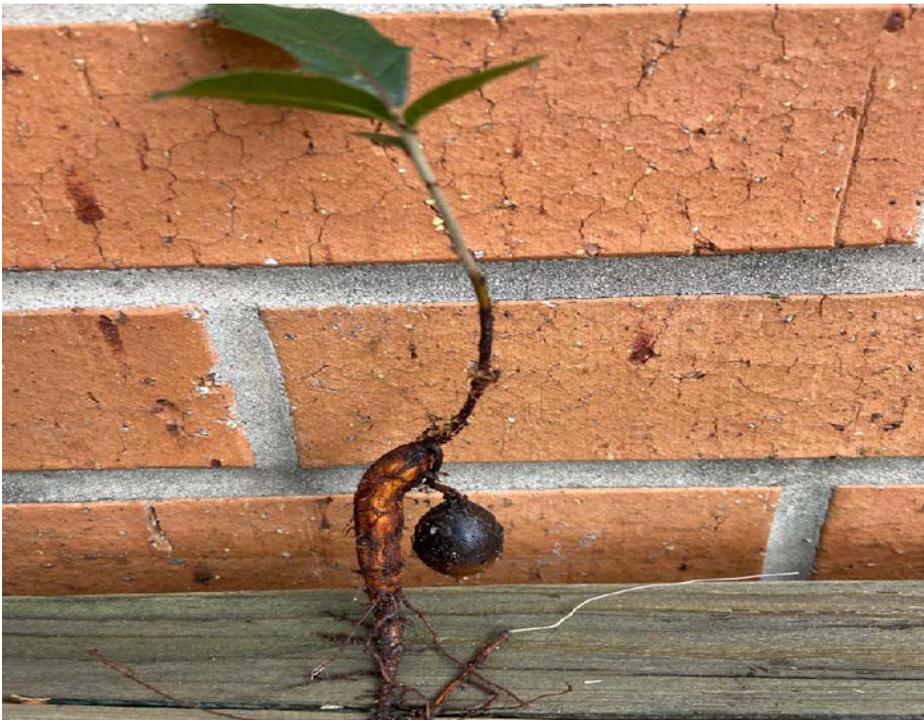


This week we started learning about pollination in the class room. Last week we planted half of our white potatoes, but the weather (cold and rainy) has put a hold on continued planting this week. This is a serious problem for us as we would like to have a fully mature crop to harvest all at once for the class. If we wait until next week that will mean our potatoes will be two weeks apart and possibly mean that their harvest will be spread out over a month's time. That means we might not get to planting all the sweet potatoes before our school year ends. One way to minimize the disparity between planting times is for the volunteers to plant the potatoes in the orchard on Saturday of this week. The concern with doing that is that the students don't get the experience of planting sweet potatoes! The reason for this discussion is to demonstrate how planning a garden takes on many aspects of gardening along with the desired goals of the gardeners. What would you do in this case?

As I have made mention in several newsletters, the weather is a challenge at this time of year. This last week gardening was a bit chilly and this week was shut down due to a cold and rainy day with the potential for continued cold (freezing temperatures) for another day or two. Thus we covered our more sensitive crops once again.

I am including a picture of a germinating seed still attached to its new seedling for you to enjoy. Take a look and see if you can recognize what it is also compare it to the bulletin board video of a germinating bean seed!



We still need plastic grocery bags for putting the harvest in to take home at the end of day Thursdays. 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!