

OFE Growers Newsletter for March 3<sup>rd</sup>,2022

This week we seemed to have stepped into spring time, as the weather was delightful with subtle breezes and the warmth of the sun. It makes everyone want to be outside. The garden looks great even though water has been an issue for us for a while now. That said yesterday was a time for great strides ahead as the irrigation system was repaired and we now have water to the orchard, main gardens, and our arbor day trees. A super thank you to all that helped make this a reality!

As you may have noticed overnight we have tomato plants in our main garden and some even have flowers on them. Thank you Mr. Vogl.

The remaining kumquats were harvested yesterday and looking around the orchard we are rewarded with the sighting of new buds on the fig trees and the promise of a fig crop later this year. Also our new citrus trees are beginning to show some new green growth but they are still too young to expect any citrus crop this year. If you haven't noticed, look carefully at the lemon tree/bush by the compost bins near the shed and you will see blossoms on a couple of branches!

We also planted some radishes and harvested sugar cane. If you want to grow a sugar cane you can take the piece you were given in your bag and plant it in a pot with the node bud pointing up. Cover it with 1 ½ to 2 inches of soil and keep it moist. You will be rewarded by a new plant that looks like a grass (because it is) and in time it will be quite tall. While all that is happening, it's best to find a sunny place in your yard to plant it because it will get big like it is at school. Sugar cane is a source of sugar as the name implies. Get your parents to remove the hard outer covering and you can chew the inner plant material to taste the sugar. The outer shell is very tough so don't try to remove it yourself get mom or dad to do that for you, I don't want anyone to hurt themselves.

Hopefully you will have seen the complete set of Arbor Day pictures on the website in the Arbor Day section of the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade submenu showing all the work and final result of Arbor Day Thursday's team effort. The Texas Red Oak is a beauty and should be showing some buds pretty soon. Take a moment and relive the fun of this years' Arbor Day (<https://www.ofegrowers.org/arbor-day.html>).

See you next week and please take a moment to see how your tree is doing. I thought I saw some fresh new buds along many branches!