

The pollination lesson set should be concluded this week. Our gardens have mostly recovered from the cold spell. We harvested the carrots and turnips and have been planting tomatoes, sugar snap peas, lettuce, yard long beans, and radishes. The onions are looking very good, there's very little evidence of the freeze maybe an occasional tip of a leaf is burnt but mostly the plants are standing straight and have a nice green color to them. The orchard is not so promising. The citrus trees look like fall rather than spring with the dead leaves slowly falling from the trees. We are anxiously looking at these tree limbs for signs of new leaf buds along with any evidence of life. The grape vines are beginning to show life after winter as are the figs, but little more is evidenced so far.

In the last newsletter I talked a bit about the strategy of planting transplants hence the reason for our aggressive planting of determinant and in-determinant tomatoes. You should look in your manuals to see what the difference is between these two types! During the planting of the tomatoes a conversation arose about using rain water for our plants. One comment was that the water was 'organic'. Since water has been in the news lately, I wonder what you think of the value of rain water. While we point to the lack of strong chemicals in rain water relative to drinking /potable water, I wonder whether you think that there might be contaminants in RAIN water?? Maybe acid rain could be a hint. Since generally speaking, all living things need water, oxygen, and nutrients, water is a BIG Deal isn't it?! Please take a look at the discussion of rain water harvesting and its value on pages 46, 47 of your manual (remember it's on-line).

When you are out in the garden next, please take a moment to look at the potatoes. They are growing at a very rapid rate and will need "hilling" (?) shortly, do you remember why? What other garden plants can also be hilled? Can Corn be hilled? Is the purpose of hilling the same? What about tomatoes????? Why can't all plants be hilled? Do you recall that when we are in the process of transplanting we try not to bury the plant deeper than it has been growing in its container. So why can some plants be hilled and others not?

With the increase of students attending class in person, we are having to increase our team sizes and numbers of teams during outside activities. This puts an emphasis on team cooperation and listening to instructions. It is important that everyone gets to share each of the activities so that everyone gets a chance to participate in the physical experience as that is a part of learning. Please remember to be respectful of your colleagues, including volunteers, as our time is very limited. With only a half hour to do anything it is hard to give everyone a chance to do the exercise.