

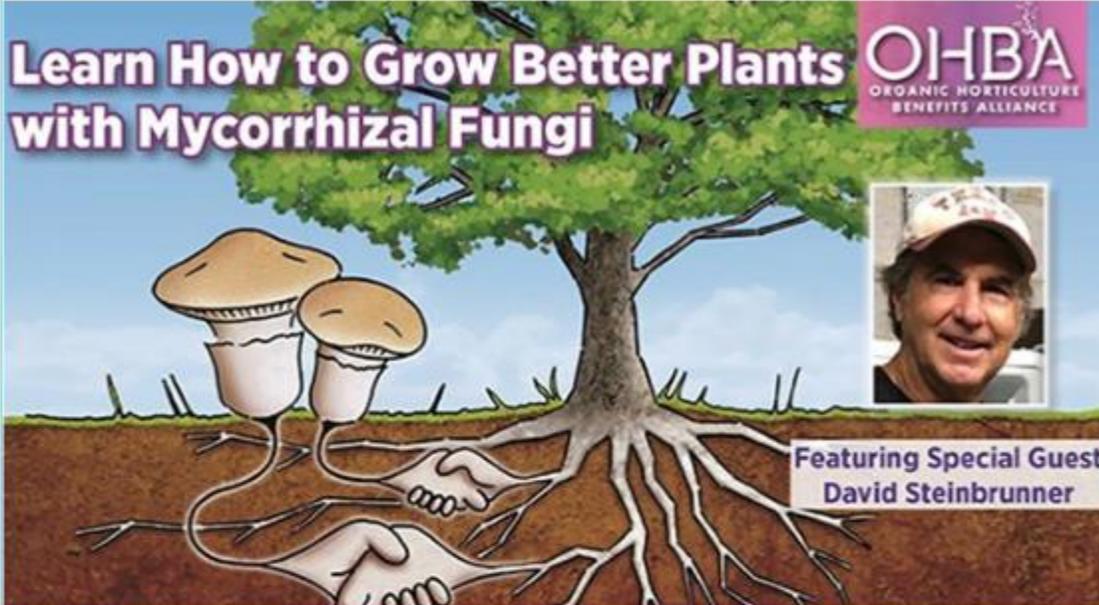
The end of our academic year is fast approaching - end of July. I am amazed to report that our gardens under the excellent care of our many volunteers has produced a whopping 2.2 tons (4465#) of food this year. Much of this success is due to regular deep watering, regular fertilizing, and judicious harvesting. Harvesting like pruning stimulates growth. Well Done!! We are also hitting our goals of having the gardens ready to receive our students come September (providing school opens as expected). The work benches look fantastic and the outdoor classroom the same. We still need to seal the benches in the orchard.

Assuming classes go as we have been planning, classroom instruction will be accomplished under the guidance of the 5th grade faculty by scheduling the viewing of our power point lesson for that week. It is planned that the ½ hour outside garden activities will be guided by the volunteers and that two of the four 5th grade classes will be worked with on alternate Thursday of the month. The two classes for a particular Thursday will be divided into 2 half hour classes in the morning (probably 10:30 and 11:00) and then the afternoon class will also be divided into 2 half hour classes in the afternoon (2:00 and 2:30). This will provide for physical distancing and crowd control around the gardening centers. The power point lessons that the 5th grade teachers will assign to the class will be provided by OFE Growers and thanks to your enthusiastic support I have all but two lessons being prepared by our volunteers at this point. The power point lessons are being stored on the website (OFEGrowers.org) under the 5th grade program power point lessons. I will attach a screen capture of the lessons, date of expected delivery, and the person who will lead the lesson in chart form. Those lessons that lead with a number (i.e. 2 Safety...) are already narrated and can serve as an example of how the lesson might look and be ready for the students. The yet to be modified lessons are power point slides that can be update and then narrated, if you feel you wish to say more. Please let's get these done with enough time to review so they can be posted and so any disconnects can be addressed before hand. If for some reason you don't believe you will be able to meet the schedule please just let myself or Gudrun know and we will take care of it, early is better than late.

Power Point Lessons 2020 - 2021

1 Orientation and safety.....6	Sept	3	Gudrun, Denton, Hal
2 Safety7	Sept	3	Gudrun , Denton, Hal
Compost9, 10	Sept	10 & 17	Hal
Plant Seeds.....13	Sept/Oct	24 & 1	Kristi
Leafy Greens.....16	Oct	15 & 22	Eric
Root Crops.....17, 18	Oct/Nov	29 & 5	
7 Potatoes.....22	Nov	12 & 19	Denton
Cole Crops.....19	Dec	3 & 10	
9 Cucumbers & Squash.....25, 26	Dec/Jan	17 & 7	Denton
Onions.....21	Jan	14 & 21	Kristi
11 Soils.....11, 12	Jan/Feb	28 & 4	Denton
Arbor Day38.	Feb	18	Judy
Pollination.....31, 32	Feb/May	25 & 4	Gudrun
Tomatoes, Peppers.....23, 24	Mar	11 & 25	Eric
Insects & pest mg't.....35, 36	Apr	1 & 22	Gudrun
Harvest Fest	Apr/May	29 or 27	Everyone

Hopefully everyone has taken care of their background security check? If not don't forget it. It will come up fast. Hal and Gudrun have sent a notice of a OHBA webinar about the relationship and benefits of mycorrhizal fungi on plants presented by David Steinbrunner (see the splash below). There are many articles that refer to the underground internet and how plants communicate one with another and act as a community warding off diseases and pests, should be fascinating. It's coming up this Thursday and is open to OFE Growers courtesy of Hal and Gudrun , members of OHBA



Are you ready to learn about the relationship between plants & mycorrhizal fungi from a fun-guy? Join us Thursday July 23RD as David Steinbrunner, owner of Wildroot Organics, talks about the basics, benefits and the best application techniques (inoculation) of Mycorrhizae. He will also teach us how important the diversification of Mycorrhizae species is to our plants.

**Thursday, July 23RD • 5:00 PM (CST) Central Time
Via Zoom!**

**Join Zoom Meeting:
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/858 0766 7512](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85807667512)**

Meeting ID: 858 0766 7512

THANK YOU SPONSORS!

BTW: OFE Growers has a small library that contains some current books such as Dr Robert Randall's Year Round Vegetables, Fruits and Flowers for Metro Houston, (the new edition is a really great study in how climate plays a role in germination, productivity, and health of Texas plants, and by analogy plants of all areas. A new book just acquired is called GrassRoots Rising, A call to action on climate farming, food and a green new deal by Ronnie Cummins.

One of these days I'll take the time to list all the books as reference material can be very enlightening.

