

OFE Growers Newsletter for September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Last week we completed the orientation and safety lessons of the program and are now looking forward to getting to work in the gardens as well as learning about composting. Can you remember from our introduction to composting last time what five (5) ingredients are necessary for successful composting. One of the main misconceptions concerning compost is that it is soil. Even though it kind of looks like it in fact it is not. See if you can figure out why!

During our tour of the gardens last week, we learned that okra is growing in bed 8. Okra and yard long beans are good summer garden crops and as you saw they looked vigorous, green, and have many flowers. And in fact these two crops are giving us a lot of produce at this time. But in fact we are heading into the fall, even if it doesn't feel like it yet, and so some of these summer crops will begin to shut down or stop producing because of the lessening of the length of the summer days. If you look closely at the okra you can see that it is beginning to lose some of its vibrant green for a more yellow green appearance. This is a sign that the okra will be lessening its productivity and that we gardeners should be thinking of planting fall crops. What do you think some fall crops might be? Lettuce and carrots come to mind but there are many more typically of the Brassicaceae family (what ?). You can look this up by going to your garden manual pg 18. The manual is on the web! We need to start to plant the fall gardens so that there will be an abundant supply of interesting veggies to take home this fall.

Please remember that when in the gardens safety is our most important concern, no open toed shoes, gloves most of the time, and brain engaged – safety is no accident.

See you soon!