

It was good to be back in the gardens with the students this last week. Their enthusiasm and joy at being in the gardens is contagious and productive as we transplanted squash, broccoli, and planted radish seeds and started a lettuce bed for later transplanting. The garden is very impressive right now, with two beds of 9 foot tall okra which is aggressively producing okra pods, a bed of blooming yard long beans and white and purple eggplant ready for the picking. This next week classes will continue to prepare the raised beds by fertilizing, adding compost, weeding, and aerating the soil for our fall garden planting as the days temperatures moderate.

Timing for this week's classes is slightly different than last week. Therefore, this week the volunteers should arrive at the gardens for Thursday morning compost class time at 9:00 am for staging of the garden tasks for the day and preparing to meet the students around 10:00 am. The afternoon's classes will begin in the garden at 2:00 pm, so please be at the garden by 1:00 pm. This week is the conclusion of the composting lesson. On September 24th we will be moving on to planting of seeds and transplants.

Please let me remind everyone that there are still a number of power point lessons outstanding. We are covered through mid-October then completed lesson are mixed relative to being ready. It is possible that the parents and students may want to be a step ahead in which case we shouldn't wait until it's our lesson before getting it completed. If anyone who signed up needs an update please let me know, I'll be happy to forward schedules and power point slides.

On Tuesday, for those of us that want to work in the garden, we will meet at 9am to harvest only okra as it gets old very quickly. We will try not to harvest any produce that the students can harvest during their Thursday outdoor class time. There are a number of other tasks that could use our attention such as the butterfly beds, mowing the orchard, watering, and orchard bed preparation.

As always please stay safe,

Denton