

Since the start of the students' outdoor classes, the students have performed a number of garden activities (planting seed, transplanting, and broadcast planting in preparation of later planting in the gardens. This is the start our fall garden crops. Garden beds were prepped by the students for the planting of long beds of radishes and carrot along with the transplanting of broccoli, squash, and collards. The radishes have already sprouted and have begun to show their true leaves. Carrots take a longer time to germinate but we should be seeing them pretty soon now. The broccoli and squash took their transplanting without showing any signs of wilt as a result of being located in their new beds, so good job students! Lettuce has been broadcast planted so that the young plants can be transplanted as soon as they are ready and space has been made available.

The summer garden is still producing very nicely but only okra, yard long beans, and eggplant. As a result some of the classes have already begun to take home produce for the dinner table.

The last two weeks we started with the lesson explaining composting. We learned the value of recycling plant nutrients with the assist of micro- and macro-decomposers. This is the beginning of understanding the value of organic gardening...much more to come!

The next 2 weeks, we will be discussing direct planting of seed and the do's and don'ts along with the pros and cons of transplanting. This Thursday, 9/24, the volunteers will need to be at the shed by 10:30 AM at the very latest to get ready to work with the students at 11:20. The afternoon class will begin at 2:00 PM so please be at the shed by 1:00 or very soon thereafter.

We've had a lot of rain this week so please wear old close toed shoes, gloves, and leg protection. Don't forget your masks.

As always stay safe,

OFE Growers