

OFE Growers Newsletter for 11.11.2021

Last week we concluded the Cole crop lesson. The word Cole being the translation of the latin word Caulis meaning cabbage. This week we are beginning to study root crops. Root crops unlike the Cole crop is a category based on the portion of the plant that is considered a food source, a largish carbohydrate storage area in the root of the plant. In our manual we define a root crop as 'any vegetable whose roots are edible'. It is worth noting that there are many different families of vegetables that are considered root crops. A Cole crop can also be a root crop, can you think of any? How about the radish? But there are many other families of vegetables that are also root crops. Take for instance the beet/beetroot (family: Amaranthaceae), the carrot (family:Apiaceae), the onion (family: Amaryllidaceae), even the white potato: (Solanaceae) and the sweet potato: (Convolvulaceae).

This week we also planted a number of beds with radishes, turnips, kale, and sugar snap peas. These are garden plants that do well in less hot temperatures and shorter day lengths, that said, please consider the weather conditions when it is your turn to be outside gardening. The day temperature may be nippy and so the appropriate clothing is necessary to keep everyone free of colds and happy while gardening.

Finally, I wanted to put out the word that the gardens need clean mulch. In past years we would get close to 2000 bags of leaves and grass clippings through out the year which was very helpful in keeping our garden well cared for. Normally, the grass and leaves would be dropped off at the back of the East parking lot by the large tree near the gated soccer fields (along the black fence). If you don't want your grass clippings or fall leaves OFE Gardens would be happy to take them to use as mulch in our school gardens. Please consider dropping them off if you can.

Thanks and have a safe and enjoyable week,