

This last week we have concluded the Leafy Greens lesson and will now move on to Cucumbers and Squash. This week will be our last for the calendar year 2020. We will continue with the smashing pumpkin activity for another session. The seeds being harvested from the pumpkins are being washed and made available for students to take home and to roast under their parents guidance or used for planting 4" pots in the spring to grow new pumpkins which the students can take home. At this juncture, it is time to take a look back at all the things the 5<sup>th</sup> grade gardeners have done since this school year began. One way we can do this is to go to the website's 'garden activity' spread sheet ( <https://www.ofegrowers.org/garden-activity.html> ) and see all the harvesting, planting, and fertilizing that the students and volunteers have done. For instance, the students/volunteers have harvested over 1538 pounds of fruit and vegetables so far. This produce, with the exception of the grapes, went home with the students since the beginning of this academic calendar year. Here is a list of the most productive crops so far this year:

Sweet potatoes.....	742.1 lbs
Oranges (all).....	241.3 lbs
Okra.....	133.3 lbs
Grapes.....	61.9 lbs
Beans, yard long.....	42.8 lbs

The week of December 17<sup>th</sup> will be the last week of garden activity before the Christmas break. When we come back we will take up where we left off by completing the Cucumber and Squash lesson set on January 7, 2021.

We wish you all a very Happy Holiday Season, stay safe and by the way look to the skies between Dec 18<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> to find Jupiter and Saturn aligning to make what some call the "Christmas Star". These two are best seen above or near the horizon just after dusk for approximately an hour or two. Go to the internet to get more information e.g. last seen this close together in medieval times, in 1226 (imagine 794 yrs ago).