The season is beginning! Welcome to our next volume of Student Gardens Updates.
First Week Information

Delivery

- If you cannot be at home during the estimated delivery time, please have a cooler with ice ready. Keep connected in order to know delivery times each week.
- Our first delivery will be Thursday, June 12 between 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Pick Up

- CSA pick up: Regular pick up location at our Student Gardens stand near Neighbor-to-Neighbor.
- Local pick up: Fridays 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Baskets: Please be ready to exchange weekly, as they are in a limited supply.

Our Mission

Andrews University’s Student Gardens seeks a healthier community, a cleaner environment, and hands-on learning experiences for our students. We strive to supply a multitude of various fruits and vegetables as well as flowers and herbs.

Through the hard work of our students as well as the knowledge of experienced growers, we stock the community with fresh local produce. Few local planteers have the ability to transition from the conventional methods of pesticides and fertilizers to the organic raising of produce. Our produce is sure to be the best quality it can be.

The aim in these updates is to keep the community informed as the growing season continues with the crop availability for each week. Student Gardens wants to continue to show our gratitude for the support as we strive to serve the surrounding area better. We provide recipes that help in the preparation of food as well as health facts and benefits.

We are always looking for feedback so let us know how we are doing!

Genesis 1:29

“Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.”
We craft our own maps, often forging them from simple dreams at our left or empirical confirmation to our right. Either way the map seems simply a speculation of a presumption for the future that only in hindsight can be truly confirmed. I have been traveling the east coast with a colleague speaking to high schools that have an active agriculture program of one shape or another in place. My iPhone acts as our 21st century map. The legs of our journey have ranged from a few hours to a full days drive. I have humbly taken on the persona of a blinking blue dot and have been religiously following the blue line set before me.

At the beginning of the day it’s so clear: we have a plan, a destination, some basic goals, and off we charge. No matter our effort, we’ve added a few miles and time to our plan before it’s all over. The Student Gardens has a map in place. We have numbers that paint the picture of our business topography and a blue line to guide us. Arthur and the garden team spent countless hours during the winter drafting for this season, adding components that were only hopes, but now are coming to reality. Mobile Farmers Market delivering food to USDA identified Food Deserts. We have debated systems from our last few years that can be made better in order to produce the best product with the assets we have as well as constant dialogue so that we make the smallest carbon footprint. This comes in the form of a business plan, succession-planning spreadsheets, labor training systems, and more. Yet, not a week into the season after the peaches have been thoughtfully printed do we realize the winter was just too cold for them. And, for the second time in my short tenure, that crop has failed.

We survive because part of our mapping as a program is to not isolate our efforts into one single crop but to diversify our assets so that students gain a broader learning of plants and to build rooms for environmental struggles such as these. This is why we map. Over a hundred varieties have been started in the greenhouse. Many are in the fields. Our greenhouses have tomatoes already in flower and growing up a string. The maps of January and February are plans for today. Here we are, CSA members. Neil Larson wrote, “A map does not just chart, it enlivens and forges meaning; it forms bridges between here and there; between disparate ideas that we did not know were previously connected.” Our garden is formulating the meaning of education and health, bridging that knowledge to students and community. It has understood the meaning and benefits for crop diversity long before I arrived and set that plan in action.

From time to time our gardens’ blinking blue dot may not follow the clear line we set before it. We will hit some bumps in the road and need to stop for gas we may miss an exit here and there. Every time we are ready to get back on the road we will check our map. We glance from time to time at our plan while traveling and although we may finish the season not quite the way we expected, we will still have accomplished our goals. We will bridge the “here” in starting our Mobile Farmers Markets to the “there” by bringing it to a reality. This will all be possible because we mapped it from the start.

Haven't ordered CSA yet?

We'll deliver fresh, locally grown produce to your door every week this summer. It lasts 18 weeks, and it's delicious.
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