

Middlesex County MG Focus Group

A Model Community Garden



2010 Garden Journal

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SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES

Key Successes/Accomplishments:

- ✓ Successfully overwintered spinach and garlic
- ✓ Completed cold frame
- ✓ Increased garden productivity by standardizing double rows and using space along fence
- ✓ Obtained donations of compost, topsoil
- ✓ Recycled SVDP vegetable scraps into compost bin
- ✓ 2 outreach activities (Groton Community Garden, Durham Fair)
- ✓ Tried new crops: kale, fennel, pole beans, cilantro, parsley, cherry tomatoes. Continuously resowed greens. Interspersed basil among tomatoes.
- ✓ Rotated away from squash crops for pest management
- ✓ Continued, active participation by Core Members
- ✓ Interactive Web site to manage operations
 - Added another site for historical (static) data
- ✓ Many donations from members, including espaliered pear tree outside fence
- ✓ Moved herb garden to outside fence and reseeded old area
- ✓ Installation of soaker hoses
- ✓ Continued clean up/beautification of fence border
- ✓ Funding from CMGA for Operations

Key Challenges:

- ✓ Dry summer
- ✓ Pests and Disease: Bell Pepper crop failed; voles destroyed chard and most beets; pests ate carrots and kale.
- ✓ Little intern involvement (MG Class was in Norwich)



University of Connecticut

Department of Plant Science

Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory, 6 Sherman Place, Box U-102, Storrs, CT 06269-5102,
Phone : 860-486-4274, Fax : 860-486-4562.

GROWER'S ADDRESS		SAMPLE ID		
CHANTAL FOSTER		COMMUNITY GARDEN HADDAM		
56 BARTLETT STREET	PORTLAND, CT 06480	LAB ID	RECEIVED	REPORTED
		8204	10/09/09	11/12/09
SALES AGENT			HANS KVIST	

NUTRIENTS EXTRACTED FROM YOUR SOIL (MODIFIED MORGAN EXTRACTABLE)

		BELOW OPTIMUM	OPTIMUM	ABOVE OPTIMUM
pH	7.1			
Calcium	>4000 lbs/acre	*****	*****	*****
Magnesium	>500 lbs/acre	*****	*****	*****
Phosphorus	>100 lbs/acre	*****	*****	*****
Potassium	>600 lbs/acre	*****	*****	*****

Element	ppm	Soil Range
Boron (B)	0.80	0.1-2.0
Copper (Cu)	0.30	0.3-8.0
Iron (Fe)	4.00	1.0-40.0
Manganese (Mn)	4.90	3.0-20.0
Zinc (Zn)	3.70	0.1-70.0
Aluminum (Al)	10	10-300

Estimated Total Lead: Low, typical background levels

LIME AND FERTILIZER RECOMMENDATIONS

CROP OR PLANT : VEGETABLE GARDEN

LIMESTONE:

Apply no limestone.

FERTILIZER:

Soil test levels for both phosphorus and potassium are above optimum. Before planting incorporate 2 lbs of Nitrogen per 1000 sq ft. See interpretation sheet for suggested fertilizer options. If plants develop pale green to yellow color, sidedress with 3 lbs. of 10-6-4 or 10-10-10 per 100 ft. of row in late June or early July. Apply next to the row about six inches from plants avoiding contact with foliage to prevent burning.

See the enclosed information on natural fertilizers for alternatives to synthetic chemical fertilizers.

COMMENTS:

Soil texture classification: Loamy sand

Organic content classification: High

If you have questions about this report or about any other plant or soil problem, contact the University of Connecticut Home & Garden Education Center, Department of Plant Science, U-115, Storrs, CT 06269-4115. Phone: (877) 486 6271 (toll-free).



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GROWER'S ADDRESS		SAMPLE ID		
		COMM GARDEN		
LAB ID	RECEIVED	REPORTED		
8147	11/03/10	11/09/10		
SALES AGENT				

NUTRIENTS EXTRACTED FROM YOUR SOIL (MODIFIED MORGAN EXTRACTABLE)

		BELOW OPTIMUM	OPTIMUM	ABOVE OPTIMUM
pH	7.0			
Calcium	>4000 lbs/acre	*****	*****	*****
Magnesium	>500 lbs/acre	*****	*****	*****
Phosphorus	>100 lbs/acre	*****	*****	*****
Potassium	430 lbs/acre	*****	*****	*****

Element	ppm	Soil Range
Boron (B)	0.80	0.1-2.0
Copper (Cu)	0.40	0.3-8.0
Iron (Fe)	4.80	1.0-40.0
Manganese (Mn)	10.90	3.0-20.0
Zinc (Zn)	3.40	0.1-70.0
Aluminum (Al)	12	10-300

Estimated Total Lead: Low, typical background levels

LIME AND FERTILIZER RECOMMENDATIONS

CROP OR PLANT : VEGETABLE GARDEN

LIMESTONE:

Apply no limestone.

FERTILIZER:

Soil test levels for both phosphorus and potassium are above optimum. Before planting incorporate 2 lbs of Nitrogen per 1000 sq ft. See interpretation sheet for suggested fertilizer options. If plants develop pale green to yellow color, sidedress with 3 lbs. of 10-6-4 or 10-10-10 per 100 ft. of row in late June or early July. Apply next to the row about six inches from plants avoiding contact with foliage to prevent burning.

COMMENTS:

Soil texture classification: Sandy loam

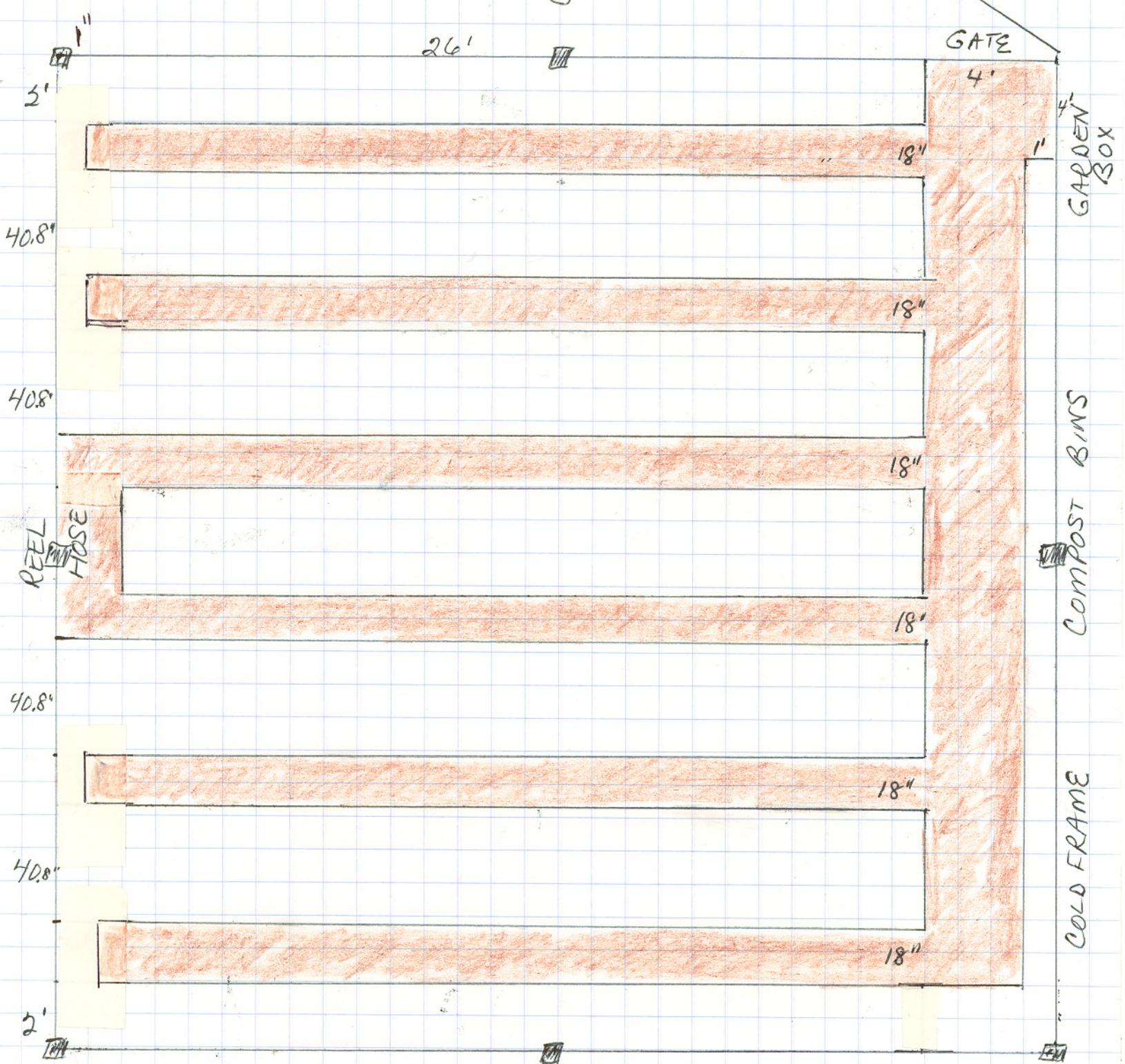
Organic content classification: Medium

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30'x30'

Middlesex County Community Garden Layout

N



5 Rows are 40.8" x 26' (end rows are 24" x 26'). Middle row - leave room for hose
6 Paths are 18" wide
1 main path is 4' at gate, 3' when 1' row planted on east side
1' strip for planting along west side.

North ▲

**Worksheet for Spring 2010 Crop Plan
30' by 30' Garden**

-----Garlic-----

GATE

Bloomsdale Longstanding Spinach

Broccoli
Raab

Tyee

Bloomsdale Longstanding

replanted 4/11/10

Hose Reel

5 rows of Hart's Bloomsdale Longstanding Spinach

3 Bin Compost

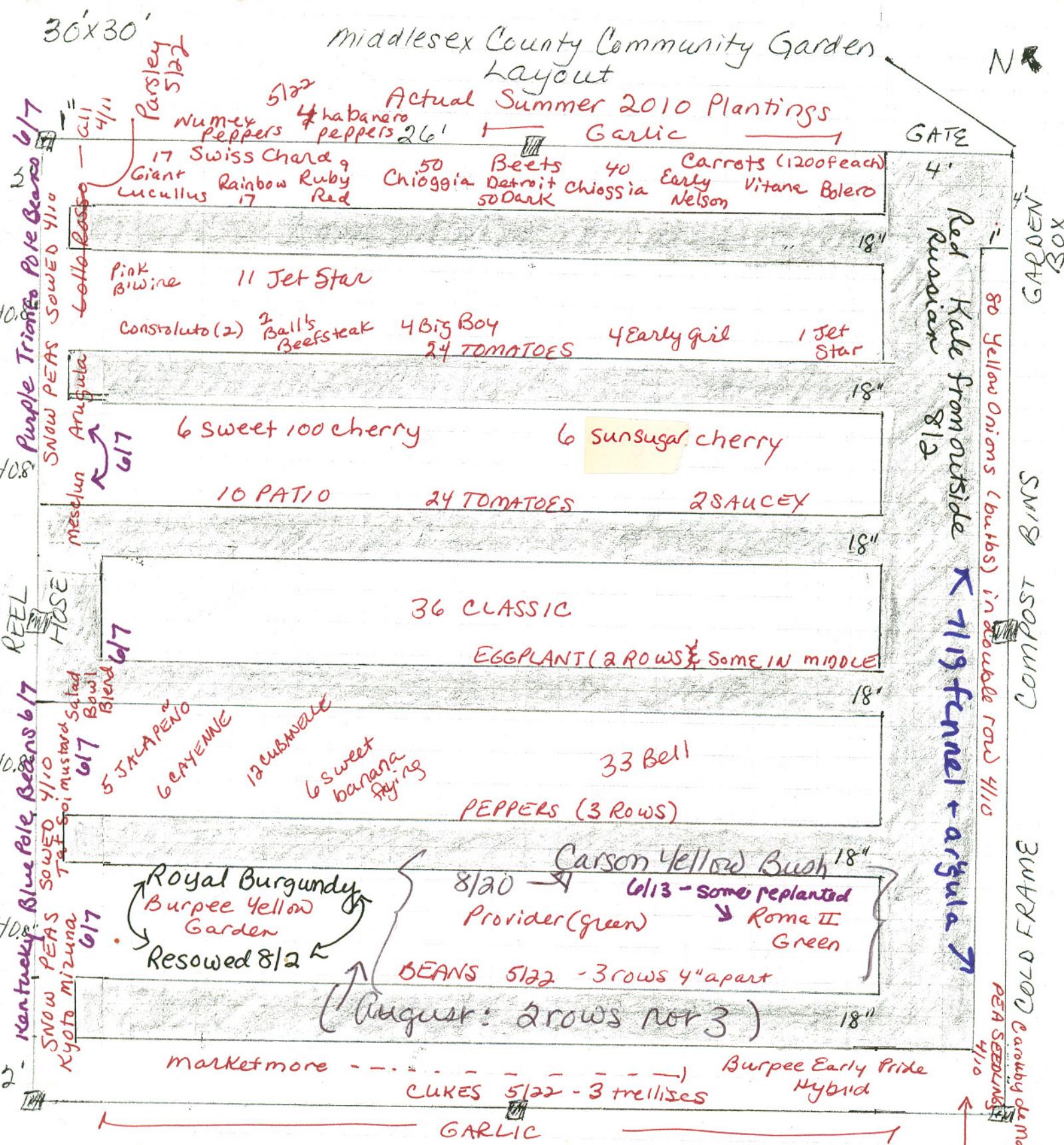
Cold Frame

-----Garlic-----

Note: Garlic will be harvested in July.

**Unplanted area is approximately 14' by 30'
Cold frame (6 2/3' x 3') will also be used**

Middlesex County Community Garden Layout



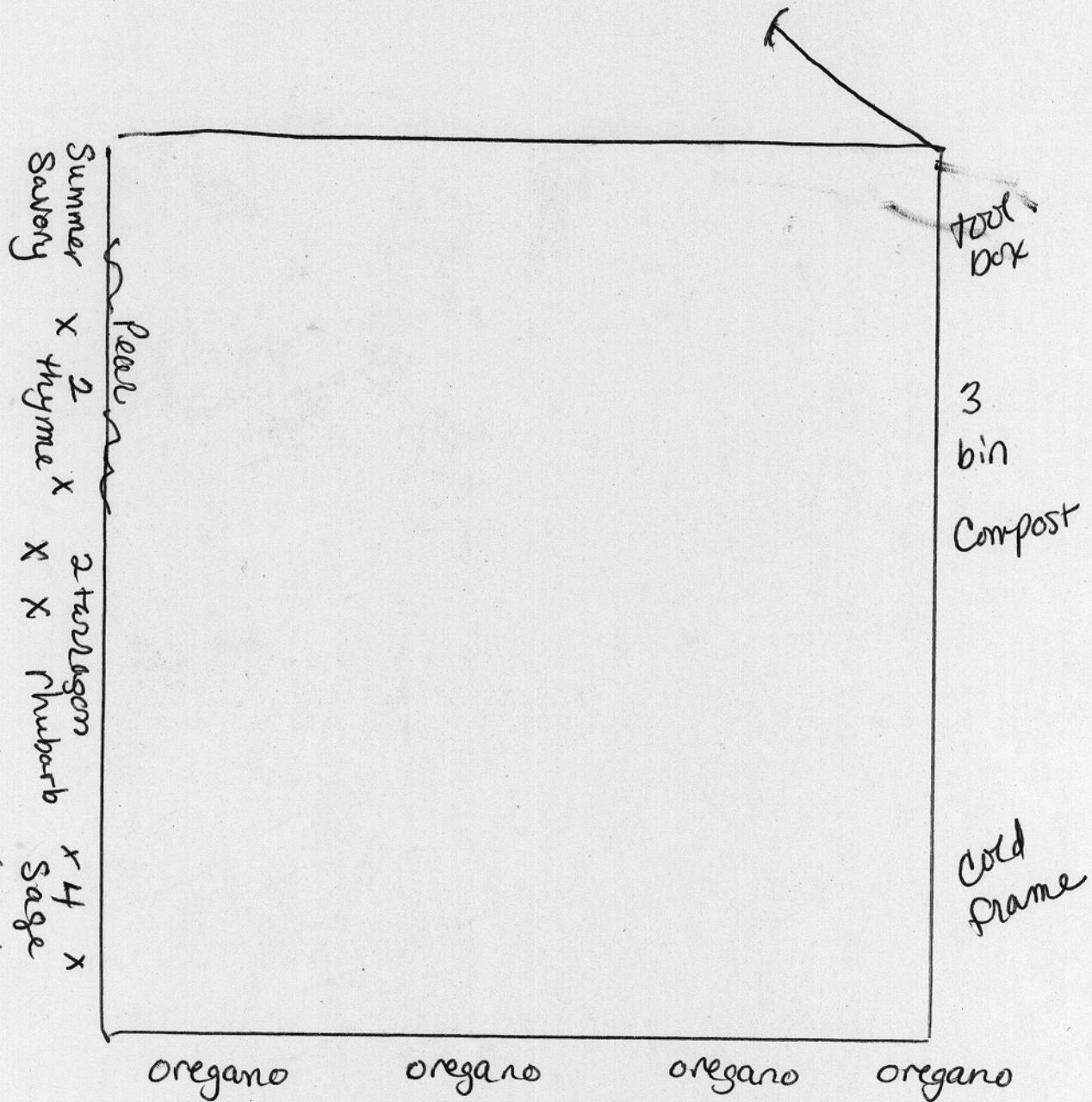
Rows are 40.8" x 26' (end rows are 24" x 26'). Middle row - leave room for hose
Paths are 18" wide

Main path is 4' at gate, 3' when 1' row planted on east side
Strip for planting along west side.

June 7 Re-sowings / newly sown shown in purple.
July 19 - sowed fennel & arugula when onions pulled

Plantings Outside the Garden

As Of 9/8/10



Note: rhubarb will be moved to
between the cold frame + compost
when that area is free

WEEKLY GARDEN LOG SUMMARY

See the online Garden Logs by week for more details; this is a summarized version.

Spring Crop and April Log: Overwintered spinach and broccoli rabb; spring greens and now peas. Snow peas seedlings provided by Jamie and we didn't harvest as well as we should.

Variety	Harvest Results
Greens: Kyoto Mizuna; Tat Soi; Mustard; Salad Bowl Blend; Mesclun; Arugula; Lollo Rosso	2 bags
Spinach: Hart's Bloomsdale Longstanding and some Tyee F1	30 Gals
Snow Peas	8 oz
Broccoli Raab	failed

April 10 Set Up Day and Key April Tasks:

Tilled and marked onion and pea rows Raked around the border of the garden, then moved the compost from Bin #1 to Bin #2 (it's full and can start to cook; added Bio Accelerator. Planted and watered the onion bulbs, peas, sowed greens in front of the peas; applied fish emulsion to the garlic. Set up the rainbarrels; weeded and trimmed the spinach; set up the reel hose. Delivered compost from Essex; finished cold frame;

Key May Tasks:

Harvesting, weeding, and watering.

Summer Set Up Day, May 22:

Tilled the entire garden and started marking rows. Marked all the rows; added compost and N (blood meal) to the planting areas; put up stakes in 1 tomato; applied fish emulsion to the garlic, onions and peas; turned the compost; installed the 2nd univent on the cold frame; sowed parsley and cilantro; put up and secured the cuke trellises and sowed cukes; sowed 3 kinds of beans; planted habanero and NuMex peppers next to the garlic on the N side outside the fence; planted 3 indeterminate tomatoes (1 Pink Brandywine and 2 Costoluto) (we also have 2 Saucey determinant to plant next week).

Summer Planting Day, May 29:

Fern brought 8 more tomato stakes (with drilled holes) and we set up those and 4 from the barn. Planted:

- 24 indeterminate, 12 cherry, and 12 determinate tomatoes planted (see revised crop plan) (donations from Paul and Sandys Too and Chantal picked up some from Town & Country; leftovers given to group and are inside the Center to be given away). All were flooded before planting.
- 36 Classic Eggplant (Paul and Sandys Too)
- Peppers: 5 Jalapeno, 6 Cayenne, 12 Cubanelle, 6 Sweet Banana, and 33 Bell.

Everything was watered

Seeds Sowed:

- 3 types of Swiss Chard,
- 2 types of beets,
- 3 types of carrots sowed with John's seed boards

Also tilled the untilled section outside the fence and planted some tomatoes.

Jamie brought soaker hoses and we set up. Maureen will get 1 more. Jamie will get garden stakes to secure the hoses in place. We will come up with a method to cover the parts that aren't in the garden but on the paths so they don't just flood the paths.

Posted laminated signs for the crops we had planted earlier, and will make ones for the new plantings.

The tomatoes, eggplant, and peppers were all mulched with wet newspaper and Mainely Mulch.

Summary of the Week of June 7:

Soaker Hoses: Added a third and secured all; taped parts that were soaking rows.

Outside the Fence: A dwarf Anjou Pear was planted along with 10 annual dahlias tubers from last year and reposition the six Tiny Tim patio tomatoes.

Other: Weeding, watering.

Statistics: Fairly cool (mid to high 60s) with about .2" of rain.

Summary of the Week of June 14:

Crops: Suckered tomatoes; watered/ran soaker hoses; picked the peas; planted marigolds.

Outside the Fence: Espaliered the pear tree.

Statistics: Fairly cool (mid to high 60s) to start, then hot and muggy with a bit less than .3" of rain.

Summary of the Week of June 21:

Crops/Pests: Possible bean mites and some beetles on the eggplant were spotted; nothing serious. Did some weeding and ran soakers, watered seeds.

Statistics: Very hot with .25" of rain.

Summary of the Week of June 28:

Crops/Pests: Squash beetles in the cucumbers; tire tracks over the garlic. Watered, watered! Bare spots in carrots/chard/beets from pests and pea plants pulled.

Statistics: Very hot with little rain.

Summary of the Week of July 5:

Tomatoes:

No pests noted, but several cherry tomatoes are ripe (at the bottom of the plants).

Carrots and Beets:

Resowed the empty beet, carrot and chard spaces with Chioggia Guardsmark Beets; Main Crop/Storage SugarSnax 54 F1 Hybrid Carrots; and Bright Lights Swiss Chard. Also weeded that area and gave a good soaking.

Garlic and Garden Perimeter:

Harvested the garlic (40 cloves +), brushed them off, tied them and have hung them in bunches of 10 in the cellar to cure. They should be ready in 3-4 weeks to be cleaned and delivered to AG. Tilled the area where the garlic was and added some of the bags of soil that John had procured. Planted oregano outside the fence.

Harvesting

Many of the greens, the cilantro, and some cherry tomatoes can be harvested.

Other Crops

Everything looks good and healthy. Some of the onions are quite big! There are some fruits on some eggplant. Soakered, watered quite a bit!

Lots of vole activity outside the fence particularly.

Statistics: Very hot with little rain.

Summary of the Week of July 12:

Crops/Pests: Found 1 squash beetle on the cukes (but also a lady beetle). Something is eating the pepper leaves, the marigolds, the basil. There was a vole tunnel in the carrot area. The beans need some cleanup; there are dead leaves and stems underneath many of the beans, cleaned up quite a bit but need to clean more. Lots and lots of dead leaves...but also a bumper crop! True summer harvesting has begun:

1 pint cherry tomatoes

4 eggplant !!

13 cubanelles (the yellow banana frying ones seem the earliest)

12 cukes

1 gal beans (there will be tons more for the next harvest)

1 gal mixed greens

Statistics: We've only had .16" of rain so far this month (this past Saturday) and except for the 1st, temps have been in the 80s, 90s and even 101 on the 6th.

Summary of the Week of July 19:

Harvesting and Rain!! Also, resowing some greens.

Statistics: Very hot with almost 2" of rain.

Summary of the Week of July 26:

Hornworm with beneficial wasp larvae was found on a tomato plant. Cuke leaves are definitely getting eaten by cucurbit pests but cukes are still growing nicely. The peppers look terrible; the carrot tops are all eaten; we shouldn't expect much of a crop. 1 of the chard had been chewed down by a vole. Voles eating the beets. The yellow beans are pretty much gone so we should resow that area. Some of the Jet Stars are shorter than they should be, but the tomatoes on the plants are huge.

Statistics: Very hot and sunny, about $\frac{1}{2}$ " of rain.

Summary of the Week of August 9:

Cukes looking eaten; sprayed with Veggie Pharm (squash beetles!).

Statistics: 90s early in the week, then 80s, NO rain at all!

Summary of the Week of August 16:

Crops: Pulled the remaining beans and sowed double hilled rows.

Cold Frame: Removed the lids from the cold frame (way too hot in there) and stored them in the shed, and we watered the soil well and sowed Javelin F1 parsnip (right hand side); titan leaf parsley (right side of the left frame) and Napoli F1 carrot (left frame).

Other: Lots of scraps being received from SVDP. Herb garden is an issue...too many maple tree roots.

Statistics: Hot but .6" of rain.

Summary of the Week of August 23:

Harvest/Crops/Pests: Garden is parched! Lots of soaker hose activity. Bell and sweet peppers pulled; some disease has attacked them.

Statistics: Still hot and little rain (about .2").

Summary of the Week of August 30:

Harvest/Crops/Pests: Many cabbage moths frolicking on the kale. Another kale and chard felled by voles. Most of the cukes are dead or dying, as are most of the pole beans. Set up vole traps. Garden very dry.

Statistics: Still hot and little rain (about .1").

Summary of the Week of September 6:

Herb Garden: Spearheaded by John, moved the herb garden plants to outside the fence perimeter and seeded the old area with grass seed. Lots of work, but lots of help! Garden still very dry, continue to use soaker hoses quite a bit.

Statistics: First hurricane (!) effects; only .28" of rain.

Summary of the Week of September 13:

Pests: Fern installed a vole barrier along the fence. Soaker hoses running!

Statistics: Cooler, and no rain.

Summary of the Week of September 20:

Harvest/Crops/Pests: Still harvesting! The cabbage worms have really done a number on the kale.

Statistics: Temps dipped below 40 for the first time at night.

Summary of the Week of September 27:

Harvest/Crops/Pests: We've decided to put off garden cleanup since the harvest and weather is still going strong! Bean harvest the first of the replantings.

Statistics: Some rain.

Summary of the Week of October 4 (first cleanup day October 9):

Harvest/Crops/Pests: Deer in the cold frame! Still harvesting!

Garden Clean Up:

- Plants pulled and chipped, stakes pulled and stored, basically all plant material and support was taken care of
- Soaker hoses pulled and stored
- 4 Large rows were tilled, prepped and seeded (and watered in) with Bloomsdale Longstanding Spinach
- Replaced coldframe tops -- the deer have been feasting on the carrots/parsnips -- there are tracks in the frame

Summary of the Week of October 11:

Harvest/Crops/Pests: Pulled & untwined all the low height pole beans off the fence. The green box is cleaned up, watered the cold frame, pulled the Kale plants, pulled the patio tomato plants on the outside. Dumped the left over Mainely Mulch into the compost bin...it wasn't very fresh.

Summary of the Week of October 18:

Harvest/Crops/Pests: Beans still not ready to pick.

Statistics: Only .08" of rain.

Summary of the Week of October 25 (Final Clean Up October 30):

Clean Up Tasks:

- final harvest of beans; cut and composted plants; added compost to the row; tilled; sowed 3 rows of spinach
- tilled outside fence and planted the garlic (N and S sides and some near the herbs on the west); mulched with Mainely Mulch
- removed soil between cold frame and compost bin; free load of topsoil delivered by Town and Country; moved rhubarb
- set vole traps throughout
- emptied and tipped the rain barrels
- put items in shed: garden box; inside hose reel; hose attachments
- took a soil sample and will send out for test

Garlic Varieties Planted:

Softneck:

Lorz Italian (Artichoke) Artichoke strains are very vigorous and large bulbed. Plants are shorter than hardneck varieties with more spreading rather than upright leaves. Silver White (Silverskin) Silverskins are the type most often found on supermarket shelves due to their very long storage life. They are the highest yielding variety and do well in a wide range of climates, from hot southern to wet maritime and cold northern climates as well.

Hardneck:

Khaber (Marbled Purple Stripe) Named because of the bright purple streaks and blotches on both bulb wrappers & clove skins, these are the most attractive looking garlics. They are also very flavorful, usually winning "best baked garlic" taste tests conducted by Rodale, Sunset Magazine, Martha Stewart and others. Most strains have 8 to 12 cloves per bulb (more than Rocambole) so clove size is slightly smaller. Cloves are noticeably tallish and crescent shaped. They store slightly longer than Rocamboles & peel almost as easily.

Chesneck Red (Purple Stripe) See above.

Asian Tempest (Asiatic) Bulbs have a tendency to be striped with fine lines that run from top to bottom. Cloves are very firm and plump. Clove skins are thick and semi-glossy, peeling like Artichokes and storing about the same time. Asiatic garlics mature very suddenly, just ahead of other Artichokes. They should be harvested just as soon as leaves begin to brown. If you wait until 40% of the leaves have browned you may find bulb wrappers split open.

Romanian Red (Porcelain) Most Porcelains display satiny white bulb wrappers with only 4 to 6 symmetrical cloves per bulb. Their cloves are often as large as unshelled Brazil nuts and are frequently mistaken for Elephant Garlic. Their flavor, however, is

vastly superior, rivaling that of Rocamboles. Because of their smooth, tight bulb wrappers they store longer than Rocamboles. Their large cloves, while a boon in the kitchen, furnish fewer plants per pound of seed stock, producing smaller yields than other garlic varieties.

The Middlesex County Master Gardener Focus Group
 A Model Community Garden
Production History

Crop	2007	2008	2009	2010
Red Tomatoes (#)	468 plus 70 lbs	239	336	Deter. 384
Yellow Tomatoes (#)	278	333	196	Indeter. 236
Heirloom (#)		108		Cherry 10.5 Gals
Total Tomatoes (#)	746 plus 70 lbs	680	532	620 plus 10.5 Gals
Eggplant (#)			209	288
Peppers (#)	215 plus 2 Gal	346	273	320 (mostly hot)
Cucumbers (#)	121	355	304	208
Yellow Squash (#)	80	18	29	n/a
Zucchini (#)	33	96	91	n/a
Beans	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ Gal	17 $\frac{1}{2}$ Gal	18 Gal plus 1/2 Qt	20.5 Gals
Broccoli		35 lbs	n/a	n/a
Beets (#)			113	19
Carrots	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ Gal plus 27 (#)		n/a	failed
Lettuce/Other Greens		101 heads	2 large paper bags and 2 Gal bags	5.25 Gal
Spinach		2 bushels	1 large paper bag and 5 Gal bag	30 Gal
Swiss Chard		1 bushel	n/a	failed
Garlic (#)			n/a	44
Onions (#)		68	n/a	74
Snow Peas			n/a	8 oz
Herbs (Basil, Cilantro, Parsley)			n/a	3.25 Qts and 6 bunches

FOCUS GROUP ACTIVE MEMBERS in 2010

Master Gardeners:

Chantal Foster (Co Leader)

Maureen Gillis (Co Leader)

Marsha Dowling

Peggy Becker

John Carlson

Marisa Fede

Barbara Glista

Susan LoGatto

Fern Martin

Chaleen Abely

Jamie Burgess

Interns:

Tim Grilley

Susan McCaffrey

UConn Middlesex County Extension Center Focus Group Liaison:

Cherry Czuba

Middlesex County Master Gardener Coordinator:

Vicky McCarthy