

Project Performance Update 11/28/22:

As of November 2022, the Fairfield Garden Initiative (FGI) Program has purchased and helped organize the distribution of 3545 plant starts to over 100 low to moderate income households. Program enrollment efforts will continue through the fall and winter to onboard new households for the 2023 growing season. An emphasis will be on low and very low-income demographics. The program plans to distribute an additional 3080 plants starts in the spring of 2023. We do not have a breakdown yet for who of the 115 plant start recipients for 2022 were initiating new gardens and reactivating or expanding existing gardens.

Numbers of FGI participating households	Number of plants to FGI participating households spring 2022	Number of plants to FGI participating households fall 2022	Number of plants to community garden 2022	Total Plant Starts distributed 2022	Expected number of plants to FGI participating households spring 2023	Expected number of plants to community garden 2023 - after the approved budget revision
114	2917	472	156	3545	2455	625

The FGI program has a Garden Tool Lending Library. Participants can select and check out ala-cart tools or garden kits for the season. Review the table attachment below for details. We have found that garden hand tools are not the limiting factor for the FGI program participants.

Garden Tool Lending Library	Current
3/4 - 50 Comm Duty Garden Hose	3
Trigger Spray Nozzle	3
Shovel Round	2
Drain Spade	2
Fork Garden	3
7in Diagonal Cutter	2
18in Bolt Cutters	1
Knee Cushion	6
Womens Nitrile Coated Gloves	9
Mens Nitrile Grip Glove	5
Small Harvest Shears/Pruners	8
Long Handle Cultivator	3
3pc Digging Garden Kit	10
Leaf Rake 24" Steel	3

Bow Rake	3
2 Gal Watering Can	7
Pump Tank Sprayer	5
Post Driver W/Handles	1
Garden Hoe	2
Loppers/Tree Runners	1

During the 2022 garden season, the FGI program found one community garden to support. The FGI Program offered materials, plant starts, compost, and physical work in the garden this season. This community garden is located at the Jefferson County ISU Extension Fairgrounds. For the 2022 growing season, this garden location was managed by one of the local master gardeners as a Giving Garden. All the produce in this garden was donated to the local food pantry, the Lord's Cupboard. The FGI program also used the garden as a teaching garden where most garden modules were filmed. Fairfield has a few privately managed community gardens where several FGI program participants are resident gardeners. The FGI program hopes to continue to build interest around publicly open community gardens. We will be supportive of the planning efforts if the opportunity arrives.

The FGI program has filmed 15 Basic Gardening modules, recorded three in-depth soil report review sessions with participants, and is planning an expanded list of additional educational gardening and food preservation workshops and filmed modules.

Filmed Garden Centered Modules	Planned Garden Centered Workshops. In-person	Planned Filmed Garden Centered Modules	Recorded Soil Report Reviews Sessions	Planned Food Preservation Centered Workshops. In-person	Planned Food Preservation Filmed Modules
Basic Gardening Tips – Module 1: Selecting and preparing a garden bed for transplanting	Seed Saving - Practical hand-on seed saving. Planned for Winter 2022-23	Cover Crop - planning, seed selection, inoculation, planting, establishment. Practical hand-on seed saving. Planned for Spring 2023	Fairfield Garden Initiative Program – Group Home Garden Soil Review	Topic: TBA Details coming soon.	Freeze Drying - Preserving garden produce, what is well suited for freeze drying, general details on benefits and how to engage with the opportunity in our community. (Filmed - editing)
Basic Gardening Tips – Module 2: Planning out a garden bed. Which plant to put where	Composting and Verma-composting - Practical hand-on seed saving. Planned for Spring 2023	Plant Health Intensive - foliar nutrition, visual and in-field assessments. TBA - needs to be during growing season.	Fairfield Garden Initiative Soil Test Report Review Session #2	March 8, 2023 6:00-7:30 p.m. - Preserve the Taste of Summer 101	We may add to this

Basic Gardening Tips – Module 3: Preparing the soil for young plants and how to transplant them	Seed Starting - Practical hand-on seed saving. Planned for Spring 2023	Seed Saving - Planning, selection, timing, collection, preserving. Practical hand-on seed saving. Planned for Winter 2022-2023	Third session is still being edited.	April 1, 2023 1:00-6:00 p.m. - Preserve the Taste of Summer: Pressure Canning	
Basic Gardening Tips – Module 4: How do we feed young plants once transplanted		Spring Bed Prep and Cover Crop Termination. Planned for spring 2023	Additional sessions will be posted upon completion		
Basic Gardening Tips – Module 5: Tucking in our transplants					
Basic Gardening Tips – Module 6: Soil structure					
Basic Gardening Tips – Module 7: Feeding your Worms					
Basic Gardening Tips – Module 8: Making a Sheet Mulch Garden Bed					
Basic Gardening Tips – Module 9: Container Gardens					
Basic Gardening Tips – Module 10: Tips for Watering your Garden					
Basic Gardening Tips – Module 11: Early Summer Weeding, Mulching and Watering					
Basic Gardening Tips – Module 12: Plant Health and Pest Issues					

Basic Gardening Tips – Module 13: Trellising, Plant Support and Pruning					
Basic Gardening Tips – Module 14: What to Harvest When?					
Basic Gardening Tips – Module 15: What Can We Plant Now?					
Module 16: The How and When of Planting Garlic • Basic Gardening Tips					
Module 17: Soil Amendments – Fall Versus Spring • Basic Gardening Tips					
Module 18: Winter Bed Prep – Mulching and Frost Protection Row Cover • Basic Gardening Tips					

The FGI Program is on track to achieve its stated program outcomes, with a few alterations and is observing where the scope of the program can be fleshed out.

Outcomes listed in the grant narrative:

Program Outcomes

- 6,000 Plants Starts
- 10 Garden Toolkits
- Partnership/Produce from 3 Community Gardens
- 100 New Home Gardens
- 8 Workshops with 100 workshop participants
- \$150,000 worth of produce was provided to our community for free

Macro Outcomes

- Community resiliency
- Individual/family food resiliency
- Ongoing plant nursery
- Ongoing garden toolkits lending library

- Ongoing community gardens
- Ongoing home gardens
- Culture of food production, preparation, and preservation

Additional Resources Provided by the FGI Program

Additional resources provided or available for distribution to FGI Program Participants as of Fall 2022		Additional resources anticipated to become available for distribution to FGI Program Participants Spring 2023		
Mulch		Materials to create raised beds		
Compost		Drip irrigation supplies		
Seed for direct sowing		Seed starting supplies		
Seed Garlic		Broadfork		
Cover crop seed		Plant fertility amendments		
Containers for mobile gardens				
Trellis/plant support				
Row cover/frost blanket				
Soil testing				
In-garden consultations and in season garden check-ins				
Soil fertility amendments				
Pest protection inputs				