

EVUGP Report April 2020

Seeds To Supper Classes

The in-person classes were postponed so Lindsey has been working with NMSU Extension to offer people the online class to receive their Garden Kits. We have 8 families completing this course set to receive the Garden Kits, 4 of which have already completed and Lindsey has distributed their kits.

Free Seeds

Lindsey has collected seed donations from NMSU Extension and retailers to provide packs of 15 different vegetable seeds and distributing through the Meadow Lake Community Center outdoor Little Library. One pack per household. These have been very popular and we have distributed at least 10 packs of garden seeds.

Johnson-Su Bioreactor Project – NMDA Healthy Soils Education Grant

VSWCD received a grant for \$12,430 from NMDA Healthy Soils Education Grant to complete a pilot study and education training for 10 local growers and 15 interns. Growers and interns will test the compost on their farms/gardens/pasture and also be trained in Healthy Soils Practices and including these practices on their own properties. Growers are compensated for their time and receive bioreactor kits. Initial soil tests have been completed by Lindsey and NRCS Gabriella Coughlin for all but 3 participants. Lindsey has also completed the Monitoring Forms for participants. Participant sites include 2 pastures, 3 community gardens, 2 youth backyard gardens, 3 market vegetable farmers and backyard growers. The goal is to train ne Healthy Soils Champions, pilot the bioreactor compost and provide an educational opportunity for the community through a garden tour and workshop at the end of the season.

NACD Urban Agriculture Conservation Initiative

Lindsey completed the 1st Quarterly report which includes work for the dates of March 15-31.

El Cerro Mission Garden Expansion

Lindsey is working with Valencia County Maintenance to implement activities that can be done during quarantine. We have confirmed the borders and the County will til the soil with compost soon.

Community Gardens

Garden Keepers are working hard getting all the spring crops planted and the rest of the beds ready for summer planting. Lindsey is working on identifying a feasible outlet to sell/donate produce locally, possible with Road Runner Food Bank or a similar food distribution program. Lindsey is trying to get mulch/compost delivered by locals and not having success if anyone knows someone....

Earth Day Video

Lindsey is preparing an education session on “Backyard Composting” to include in the Earth Day videos that Allison is organizing.

Grab N Go Curriculum

Lindsey has completed a Grab N Go curriculum for schools to distribute on starting a container garden and starting an outdoor garden. The curriculum is 2 pages and translated into Spanish and is available on the VSWCD website as well.

Community Advisory Board

Lindsey has confirmed 4 members on the CAB. She is continuing outreach and plans to meet with group. The name may change to not include the word ‘Board’.

Other Outreach

Lindsey has completed extensive outreach on Facebook providing information on starting gardens in English and Spanish. She has also started a Facebook Group called “Valencia Growing Food – Valencia Creciendo Verduras”. Those that join can ask growing questions or share ideas, share resources for free materials or ways to support our local farmers. There are already 60 members. Please join! And share information!

Grow Your Own Food!



East Valencia Urban Gardens Program

Method 1: Container Gardening

Materials:			
Seeds	Potting soil	Container	Water

Directions:	
Container	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Container must have small holes for drainage in the bottom. Container should be at least 1 gallon. See sizes in the chart below. Container examples: milk jug or soda container with tops cut off, buckets, old cooking pots, old wagon, untreated pallets for a wood box, etc. DO NOT use wood that has been treated with creosote, or other toxic compounds or old tires. They leach chemicals.
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use potting soil. Do not use soil from the ground, it will get compact and run out of nutrients.
Planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pick one or two kinds of plants to grow in containers. Suggestions in the chart below. Seeds are planted under the soil. The bigger the seed the deeper it is planted. Seeds are planted 3 times as deep as the seed is wide.
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water gently and slowly so the soil does not move and so it does not flood, using a watering can if you have one. You can make a watering can by poking holes in an old milk or soda container. The first time watering, make sure the water drip out the bottom of the pot. Water anytime the top of the soil dries out a little (usually every 1-2 days) at the base of the plant. <u>Do not</u> water the leaves.
Sun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place the plant inside anytime, or outside after April 20, where it receives sunlight for at least 6 hours a day.
Nutrients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add a little fertilizer (if you have it) once the plants are at least 4 inches tall.

Grab N Go Curriculum

Common Plants to Grow in Containers

Vegetable / Fruit	Containers Size for 1 Plant	Other Needs
Herbs (basil, cilantro, parsley)	1 gallon	Better in partial shade
Green Beans (bush or pole)	1 gallon	Pole beans climb, full sun or partial shade okay
Beets, lettuce, spinach, peas	1 gallon	Better in partial sun
Carrots	1 gallon (8" depth)	Full sun
Swiss Chard and kale	3 gallon	Full sun or partial sun okay
Cucumber and squash	3.5 gallon	Most varieties need to climb on something, full sun
Chile peppers / sweet peppers	2 gallon	Full sun
Tomato, melon, watermelon	5 gallon	Needs to climb on something, full sun

