

When you come through the double doors, you'll see Mandevilla Vines ready to climb up the awning poles. These flowers attract hummingbirds, and will bloom until frost. The first bed boasts our Strawberry patch that spreads via runner/stolon stems called "daughters". These are everbearing and will fruit a small amount in fall (if given fresh compost in summer). They are smaller and much sweeter than June bearing types. Loose Leaf and Romaine Lettuces grow in the center, and are the types served to our 2nd and 5th graders in salads. Love in a Mist is the blue/white cottage flower that was commonly grown in the 1800's. In the top right corner is Lamb's Ear. We know it as a nice perennial for the yard, but it has been historically used by Native Americans, pioneers and soldiers to clot blood on a wound and provide healing with its antiseptic qualities. Not only do students love to pet the pillow-soft leaves, but use them as a natural band-aid!

The wall trellis has Passionflower Vine growing across it that will feature intricate and spectacular purple/white flowers named after the Passion (or crucifixion) of Christ. This tropical vine is very invasive, and grows prolifically on a warm wall. Kentucky Wonder Pole Beans (great for snap green beans) are growing up from the soil bed, along with Zinnias in the very front that will flower till frost. Grandpa Ott's Morning Glory grows along the irrigation/power box. The coral/red Honeysuckle vine is climbing nicely up the old antenna, and attracts hummingbirds. Iris bulbs have spread and are blooming. Sweet Pea Vine mixes in with both, and boasts very unique, spiral shaped flowers.

The second raised bed has Snap Peas and Cucumbers growing on the trellis. A Squash plant grows on the right side. Be sure to have students feel the rough leaves that make it the protective "third" sister of the N. American three sisters. Along the far side is a row of Sugar Beet seedlings. They are used to produce white sugar. This sucrose sugar is no different from cane sugar, it is just processed differently. Sugar Beets provided a sugar source that could be grown in the temperate climate of Europe. First used in 1747, 54% of US sugar is produced from Sugar Beets. Yellow Onion sprouts grow nearby, where the green sprouts could be used in summer and the yellow bulb root in the fall. Bibb Lettuce grows in the top right, and is a very crunchy, sweet tasting lettuce. A small Stevia plant is at the top left corner, and will grow the sugary tasting leaves used for "Truvia" or green labeled sugar substitutes in the store. Come fall, students can taste the sweet leaves for themselves.

The third raised bed has old and new Loose Leaf Lettuces growing. I like to keep some older plants around so they can "bolt", or go to seed. Students are taught where seeds come from and how to save them. I exclusively grow HEIRLOOM seeds and plants, with the exception of a few HYBRID tomatoes.

Heirloom plants are those that have been grown for 50 years, from the same two parents and will produce the exact same plant from saved seeds. Hybrid plants are from two different parents, and either have sterile seeds or seeds that produce an unrecognizable offspring. Seed companies love Hybrids for two reasons: you must keep buying the seeds from them, and Hybrids are developed to resist diseases.

The red sprouts growing to the side of the lettuce is Amaranth. It is a seed grain that was used by hunters/gathers as well as Aztecs. It is a gluten-free protein that can be substituted for wheat. I grow a few Cabbage plants each year just to show students the population of Cabbage Looper Worms that consume them. Snap Peas and their lovely purple flowers grow on the trellis. Look for some young pea pods

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they are delicious right off the vine.

The fourth bed has Cucumbers growing beneath the trellis. They can be trellised upwards to save space. They require many, many Bee visits to their flowers for the “Cuke” fruit to develop. When you see a odd shaped Cuke, that means too few bees came to pollinate the flower. Sweet, Jalapeno and Cayenne Peppers grow on the right side. Peppers were named incorrectly by Christopher Columbus. He tasted their strong, pungent flavor and thought they were relatives to the coveted Black Peppercorn. Thus, the New World plant was named after the Old World’s favorite spice. Roman Chamomile with it’s daisy-like flowers and feathery foliage grows on the left side. Chamomile is a favorite herbal sleep aid.

The fifth bed has a Pineapple Sage plant in the top left corner. This herb grows tubular red flowers that are irresistible to hummingbirds. Running down the right front side of the bed is Rat Tail Radishes. These are pod Radishes that are milder than the root variety, and have lovely flowers and curious looking pods. There are Kentucky Wonder Pole Beans on the bamboo teepees, and Calypso Bush Beans

growing below. Bush beans grow to about 2’x2’ in size. Many varieties of beans can be eaten fresh as snap green beans, or dried for later use as cooked beans. Sweet Potato slips are planted to the right, and will gradually grow long vines, morning glory type flowers, and will be ready to be harvested just before frost. Please note: Sweet Potatoes are NOT Yams. Sweet Potatoes are New World plants from South America, and true Yams are Old World plants from Africa. Lemongrass grows at the end of the bed, and is a wonderful herb for Asian style dishes. The middle bed has Green Romaine Lettuce at the far end, along with Thai Basil and Ammi/Khella plants. Ammi is a relative to Queen Anne's Lace, but is well know to gardeners as an excellent source of food to many beneficial insects. Sweet Mace, or Mexican Tarragon grows to the left and has lovely yellow flowers and flavors meats. Pole Beans will grow up the bamboo teepees, while Tiger Coreopsis perennial flowers gradually grow on each side and are favorites for Bees and Butterflies. Bachelor Button flowers will soon emerge from the front, which are also great for attracting pollinators. Very invasive Chocolate Mint grows on the front of the bed. It spreads from rhizome roots that travel deep underground. All types of Mint will take over a garden if not contained, or properly trimmed back. The back wall bed has Kale that is going to seed, Sweet Potato slips, Red Sails Lettuce, Loose Leaf Lettuce and Spinach. A Stevia plant is in front, along with Marigolds. Marigolds are good insect repellents.

The left wall bed has lots of Herbs, or plants grown for flavoring foods and have been used for centuries for medicinal remedies. I’ll list from Left to Right. Rosemary is a favorite flavoring for poultry dishes and vinegars, and is the favorite symbol of “remembrance” for deceased loved ones. Peppermint Mint is in the top left corner, and is a student favorite for chewing and mixing up in Tea. Remember – Mint is a very invasive perennial. Tiny seedlings of Thyme are sprouting, and this is my favorite herb for Roasted Turkey. Oregano is a long-lived, spreading perennial like Mint, and is a great dried seasoning for sandwiches (and yes Spaghetti too). Parsley grows to the right and I let it go to flower, as it is a favorite food of the Swallowtail Butterfly Larva. French Tarragon (NOT Russian) is a favorite for French sauces, vinegar flavoring and seasoning fish and poultry. French Tarragon can only be grown from cuttings; the Russian variety grows from seeds but lacks in flavor. Another favorite herb is Cilantro/Coriander. Yes, it’s a two in one herb. The young round Cilantro leaves are a Mexican/Latino food favorite, and must be eaten

fresh. Think delicious fresh cut Salsa....Yummm! The plant will grow tall and bear flushes of tiny white flowers. These flowers become Coriander seeds, which are used ground in various Indian dishes and as pickling seeds all over the world. Hyssop is a Mediterranean herb that just sounds sooo familiar! It is known as the holy herb ("Cleanse me with Hyssop"), used for thousands of years for cleansing and protection. It is a perennial with beautiful purple flowers. A common flower garden hybrid is known as Anise Hyssop. The pitiful little Sweet Basil plant in the front right corner will be huge when your return in the fall. Sweet Basil is a favorite culinary herb that tastes good with Tomatoes, and also repels Tomato Hornworms if grown nearby.

Hybrid Celebrity and Better Boy Tomatoes grow in the large pots. Use moisture control potting soil in large pots for the best growth. Borage planted in and around tomatoes is an herb that repels Tomato Hornworms. These pests can devour a large tomato plant in a few days. The star-like flowers of Borage can be eaten in salads, and taste like cucumber.

The left fence line is dedicated to growing Carolina Gold Rice. The runoff from the drip irrigation keeps this spot wet, and soggy – perfect for rice cultivation. This variety of rice is the descendent of the Gold Seed Rice that was originally brought to South Carolina in 1685. Rice plantations spread across the low country of South Carolina, and by 1726, the port of Charleston was exporting over 4,000 tons of "Carolina Golden" rice. Growing this historical crop reminds students that plantation life and slavery came to SC due to rice, NOT cotton. When they feel the sharp, blade-like leaves they can empathize with the harsh conditions of slavery. They can see the rice seed in its natural state – brown rice with the bran left on.

The arbor hold the Daytona Grape Vines. These are seed-in table grapes, as seedless grapes would die without spraying with chemicals. When you return in the fall, please bring your students out to see the abundance of grape clusters. If you visit this spring, have students find the letters carved in the inside arbor poles that spell out E-B-I-N-P-O-R-T. The right fence line is our host to the Native American "Three Sisters" of Corn, Beans and Squash. These sustainers of life provided energy, protein and vitamins to native peoples for centuries. Corn is the eldest sister, standing tall to watch over her garden sisters. Beans, the middle sister, climb up the Corn and provide support along with adding soil healing nitrogen. Squash is the prickly, spreading little sister that surrounds her older sisters with spiny leaves to keep predators out. The corn is called Japonica Striped Corn and grows colorful striped outer leaves, the beans are Hyacinth Beans that grow gorgeous purple flowers, and the Squash is called Dinosaur Gourd. (Gourds and Pumpkins are in the Squash family.)

The 10'x10' bed left side will host Bantam Corn, Lemon Queen Sunflowers, Cherokee Trail of Tears Pole Beans and Multiplier Onions. The right side has Celebrity Hybrid Tomatoes in pots. The lush green grass-like patch is Einkorn Wheat. This is thought to be the first cultivated wheat from 7500 BC in the Tigris-Euphrates region. This will be my first time growing wheat, as I want students to see where bread and our primary grain comes from.

The 1st AC unit raised bed is growing Cucumbers, Cardinal Basil, Clemson Spineless Okra (seeds in) and Coriander (check out the little white flowers). The right side of the bed boast very mature Swiss Chard. Please take note of the unique colors (variety is called Bright Lights Swiss Chard). Swiss Chard is a Chenopod like Spinach and Quinoa, and ranks 2nd behind Spinach as the world's healthiest veggie. Many grow it as an ornamental plant. Dianthus flowers adorn the corner. Morning Glory Vine covers the back of the trellis.

The 2nd AC unit bed hosts fall planted Garlic that can be harvest right before school is out. There are

Heirloom Rutgers Tomatoes and Zucchini Squash.

The 3rd AC unit bed also hosts Garlic, Tomatoes, and bolting Loose Leaf Lettuce. The very large purple flowering plant is Common Sage. Sage is a favorite cooking herb used in sausages and stuffing, but is a well know medicinal herb. Native peoples all over the world have used Sage to brush their teeth for centuries. It is in the Mint family, so it has a refreshing taste. It has antiseptic/anti-inflammatory properties that clean germs from teeth and gums. A favorite for students of all ages.....

The 4th AC unit bed has Rosemary, Tomatoes, Sunflowers, Loose Leaf Lettuce, Spaghetti Squash (which has long strands inside that cook and taste like Spaghetti pasta) and Dianthus flowers.

The split rail fence hosts our state flower, Carolina Jessamine. Underneath, seeds for Pumpkin and Gourd Squashes have been planted. You can see the dried remains of the Luffa Gourds, which provide the sponge for the natural Luffa scrubber. A Butterfly Bush grows to the side.

The picket fence section has Thai Yard Long Bean sprouts growing. These beans grow extremely long and can be viewed this fall. Milkweed grows on the left side, and is a crucial food source for Monarch Butterflies. Zinnia flowers grow in front, and attract various pollinators.

SUMMER GARDEN suggestions: Pole Beans, Bush Beans, Peppers, Okra, Quinoa, and Sunflowers SEEDS can all be planted in the hot summer. Do remember to keep them well watered though!

FALL GARDEN suggestions: Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Turnips and Turnip Greens, Collard Greens, Spinach, Lettuce, Swiss Chard, Kale, Carrots, Beets, Snap Peas, Garlic, Cilantro. If planting from seed, start them in late August and keep well watered. Plants for many of these can be purchased in garden centers beginning in September. Garlic bulbs should be fresh ordered and planted in October for late spring harvest. The greens will grow throughout the winter and benefit from being harvested. Carrots, Beets and Turnips can overwinter and be eaten in early spring.

Happy gardening and enjoy your summer!!

Kelly Sebastian

Master Gardener / Ebinport Gardens Coordinator