

The Columbus Green Patch

Cultivating Community | [VIEW IN BROWSER](#)

Welcome!

August was a month full of energy and milestones for Growing to Green! The biggest highlight was the **Urban Garden Leadership Academy** kickoff with Orientation, bringing together community garden leaders from across Columbus for this exciting new journey.

Through the month we also rolled up our sleeves at several volunteer days, outreach at community events, and visited gardens to connect with leaders making a real difference. From the Field to Table fundraiser, a field trip to **OSU's CERC**, guided by Tim McDermott to partnering with the **Local Food Action Plan** to host and assist with the **Community Garden Tour**, August showed us the strength and vibrancy of our garden network.

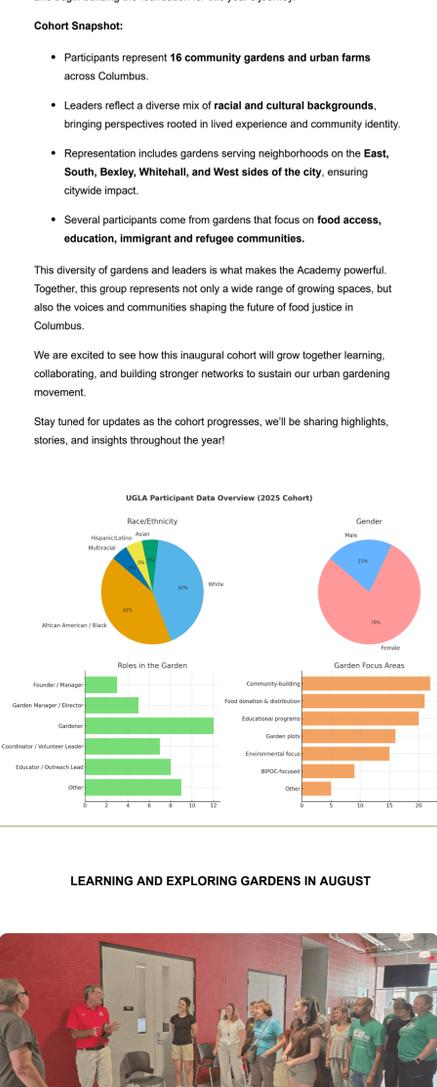
As we move into fall, we're carrying that momentum forward, continuing to grow, learn, and celebrate together.

Thank you for being part of this journey with us!

The Growing to Green Team

Looking Back

URBAN GARDEN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY – 2025 COHORT KICKOFF!



Last week (Aug 27), we officially welcomed the first cohort of the **Urban Garden Leadership Academy (UGLA) 2025!**

Our orientation and first meeting brought together **19 inspiring community garden leaders** for the first day of connection, learning, and vision-setting. It was a wonderful opportunity to get to know one another, share experiences, and begin building the foundation for this year's journey.

Cohort Snapshot:

- Participants represent **16 community gardens and urban farms** across Columbus.
- Leaders reflect a diverse mix of **racial and cultural backgrounds**, bringing perspectives rooted in lived experience and community identity.
- Representation includes gardens serving neighborhoods on the **East, South, Bexley, Whitehall, and West sides of the city**, ensuring citywide impact.
- Several participants come from gardens that focus on **food access, education, immigrant and refugee communities**.

This diversity of gardens and leaders is what makes the Academy powerful. Together, this group represents not only a wide range of growing spaces, but also the voices and communities shaping the future of food justice in Columbus.

We are excited to see how this inaugural cohort will grow together learning, collaborating, and building stronger networks to sustain our urban gardening movement.

Stay tuned for updates as the cohort progresses, we'll be sharing highlights, stories, and insights throughout the year!

UGLA Participant Data Overview (2025 Cohort)



LEARNING AND EXPLORING GARDENS IN AUGUST



LEARNING AND EXPLORING GARDENS IN AUGUST

August brought an amazing opportunity to learning and exploration for the Growing to Green team, the Conservatory Education Department and our partners!

- **Field Trip to OSU CERC** – Our team toured the Center for Urban and Environmental Research with Tim McDermott, learning about cutting-edge sustainable indoor food production and innovations in urban agriculture.
- **Columbus Food Action Plan Community Garden Tour** – We joined this citywide tour, visiting four inspiring community gardens and meeting the leaders behind them. We visited inspiring community gardens across the city and met the leaders behind them, seeing firsthand the ways gardens nourish communities, build connections, and promote food access. We were thrilled to welcome so many partners on the tour, including representatives from **NRCS, Franklin County Public Health, The Columbus Foundation, Columbus City Council, Recreation & Parks, Franklin Soil & Water District, City of Columbus Public Service and Public Utilities, OSU Extension Franklin County, the Local Food Board, and Franklin County Economic Development & Planning**. Their presence and support made the day even more meaningful. We are proud to host this tour as both the starting and ending point. We fired up our outdoor pizza oven, baking and serving fresh pizza! We are deeply grateful to the **education staff and volunteers** whose support made this event possible, and a special thank you goes to **Heather** for her outstanding coordination and leadership. From neighborhood gardens to educational spaces, we learned about the diverse ways gardens nourish communities, build connections, and promote food access across Columbus. We had the chance to visit, [Southside Family Farms](#), [Urban Farm Church](#), [BCCO](#), [New American Community Garden](#), and [Growing and Growth Collective](#).

These experiences deepen our understanding, spark new ideas, and strengthen our collaborations as we continue to support thriving community gardens throughout the city.

Special **THANK YOU** to Karima Samadi for this opportunity.

More photos and videos can be found on the Columbus Public Health social media ([Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#))

GROWING TO GREEN COMMUNITY GARDEN VOLUNTEERING

Growing to Green had the joy of coordinating and assisting at **four community garden volunteer events** across Columbus last month. Together with partners and volunteers, we rolled up our sleeves to support these vibrant spaces:

- **Franklinton Farms** – Assisting with soil amendment and preparation in their high tunnels.
- **The Flower Initiative with the Women's Board** – Weeding, cutting blooms, and creating beautiful bouquets to take home.
- **SE Urban Farm** – Planting new perennials and enhancing the borders of the pollinator garden.
- **St. Dominic's Church Community Garden** – Helping paint raised beds and harvest fresh produce for the neighborhood.

These volunteer days reflect the spirit of collaboration and care that make community gardens thrive.

We're grateful to everyone who joined us and look forward to many more hands-on moments in the season ahead!



WHAT YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED IN AUGUST!

Communal Garden Class Series Recap: All About Root Vegetables

Last month in our **Communal Garden Class Series**, we had the pleasure of welcoming **Andy Hupp** from Three Creeks Farm for an engaging and hands-on session on **Root Vegetables**.

If you missed it, here's a quick summary of the key takeaways:

Growing Root Vegetables

- Root crops include true roots (carrots, beets, turnips) and modified stems (onions, garlic, potatoes).
- Success depends on quality seeds, good soil prep, and consistent moisture.
- Thin seedlings after germination for strong growth.
- Aim for at least 1" water per week and stay on top of weeds, pests, and diseases.

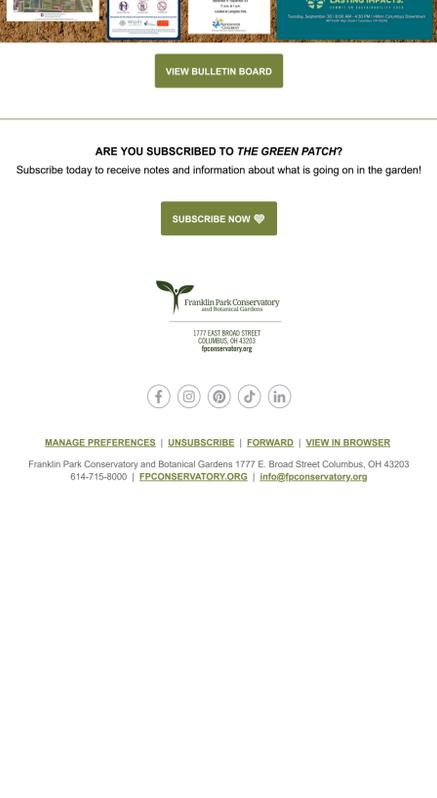
Harvest & Storage

- Most root crops can be eaten at any size but taste best when mature.
- Trim extra leaves and store greens separately.
- Keep roots cool, humid, and well-ventilated; many store for months.

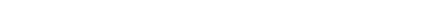
Crop Highlights

- **Carrots & Parsnips** – Loose, deep soil and steady moisture are key. Best flavor after frost.
- **Beets** – One seed produces multiple sprouts; stagger harvest to extend the season.
- **Potatoes** – Hill plants to boost yields; cure before storage.
- **Sweet Potatoes** – Plant slips deep; cure before storage for long shelf life.
- **Radishes, Turnips, Rutabaga** – Best after frost; cover with netting to deter pests.
- **Onions & Garlic** – Cure for several weeks before storing; choose varieties suited to your latitude.

Learn more about Andy's work and Three Creeks Farm [here!](#)



Current Projects



INSTRUCTOR: **CINDY MARAVICH**
Cindy Maravich is the Community Education Manager at Franklin Park Conservatory. She oversees all community education initiatives including the Growing to Green program, Community Gardening, Outreach, Adult, Culinary, Farmers' Market, and the Teen Corps program. She enjoys getting people excited, interested, and educated about plants, nature, and gardening.

[Register Now](#)

The Communal Garden Class Series is generously supported by a grateful gardener.

Community Corner

GROWING TO GREEN Harvest Awards

OCTOBER 9 | 5:30-7:30 PM | WELLS BARN

Awards & Garden Anniversary recognitions presented at Harvest Award Ceremony

RSVP BY SCANNING THE QR CODE BELOW!

The Growing to Green Harvest Awards honors the dedication and hard work of many Central Ohio communities and individuals within urban agriculture and community gardens.

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So we can all fit comfortably, we ask that each group keep it to about 4 people.

Join us on **Thursday, October 9 from 5:30-7:30 PM at the Wells Barn for the annual Harvest Award Ceremony!**

[RSVP HERE](#)

Get Involved!

Visit the Growing to Green webpage to register, explore details about each garden, and stay informed about new volunteer opportunities!

GROWING TO GREEN COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERING

Are you looking for a meaningful way to volunteer and connect with your community? Growing to Green's Community Volunteering program offers opportunities for community members to roll up their sleeves and support local community gardens across Central Ohio.

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Bulletin Board

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