

**Community
Gardening**

2026

**Mvskoke
Gardener**

**Mvskoke Gardener Program - College
of the Muscogee Nation Extension
(Class II)**

PROGRAM

Why start a community garden?

- Provide Fresh Produce
- Engage the Community
- Restore/Repurpose Land
- Education



Get Back What Were Losing

- Ties to the Land
- Sense of Community
- Knowing how it's produced-
- Preserve Knowledge



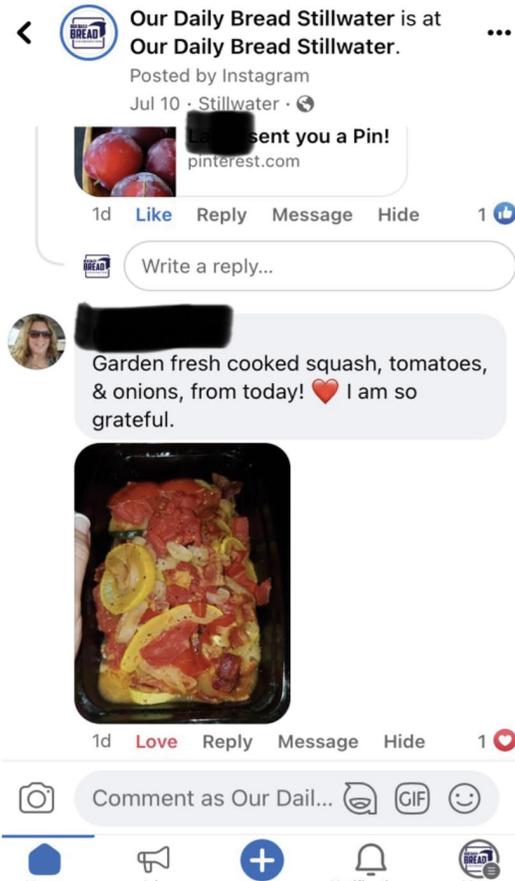
Skyline-Okra Kids

Why start a community garden?

Community Impact:

Nutrition faculty and Extension staff are equipping families at the food bank with ways to prepare produce and recipes for healthy dishes.

Community members share their healthy dishes on social media thanks to Our Daily Bread's nutritional education.





OKLAHOMA:

Source:

United Health Foundation —
America's Health Rankings,
2022 Annual Report



46th

FOOD INSECURITY (% OF HOUSEHOLDS)



49th

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CONSUMPTION
(% AGES 18+)



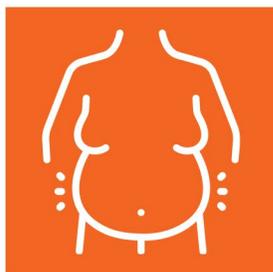
49th

NUTRITION AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY



46th

ADULT OBESITY



36th

YOUTH OBESITY



41st

OVERALL HEALTH OUTCOMES

Why do community gardens fail?

- Funding
 - Grants, Donations, Charge Patrons?
- Leadership
 - Knowledge-Resource
 - Dedicated Team of People, do they work well together
 - Loss of Leaders
- Availability of Volunteers
 - Who's doing all the work
 - Age
 - What days are they coming
 - Loss of interest

Just a few many more

- Unrealistic Expectations (romanticized)
 - Too many directions
- Gardening Can Be HARD!
 - Fair Weather Gardener (June Gardeners)
- Site Selection
 - Is location good for need
 - Accessible to volunteers/public
 - Loss of Land



To Start A Garden

1. Site Location
2. Get organized
3. Team
4. Mission
5. Funding
6. Crops
7. Sustain
8. Acquire New People/keep people interested



No one way to get it going

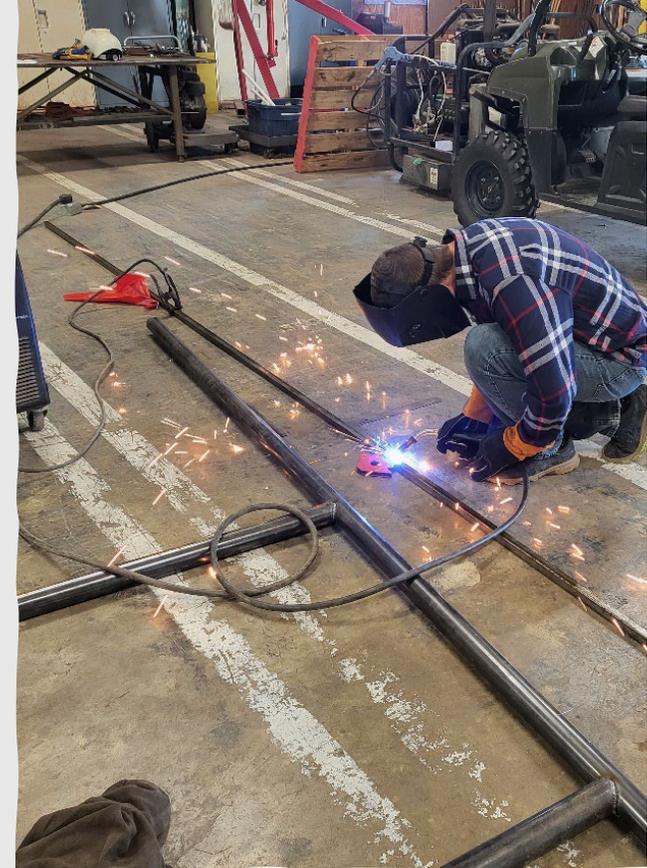
- Don't Get Lost in Overthinking
- Best Advice Start Small



Site Location

Where will your garden be located?

- Accessibility
 - Can people get to it
 - Size? Room for expansion
 - Buildings
- Do you have a water source?
 - What kind of water: City, Surface, Ground
 - Cost
- Do you need a wildlife exclusion fence
 - Even close to town deer are concerning
- Sunlight – at least 6 hours of direct sun
- Soil –Raised Beds
- What was the land before
 - Don't Ignore
 - Test even if its sure thing
- Soil/Water Test



Get Organized

- Know what you are/where it should or could go in future
 - Non-Profit?
 - What's your focus



Team

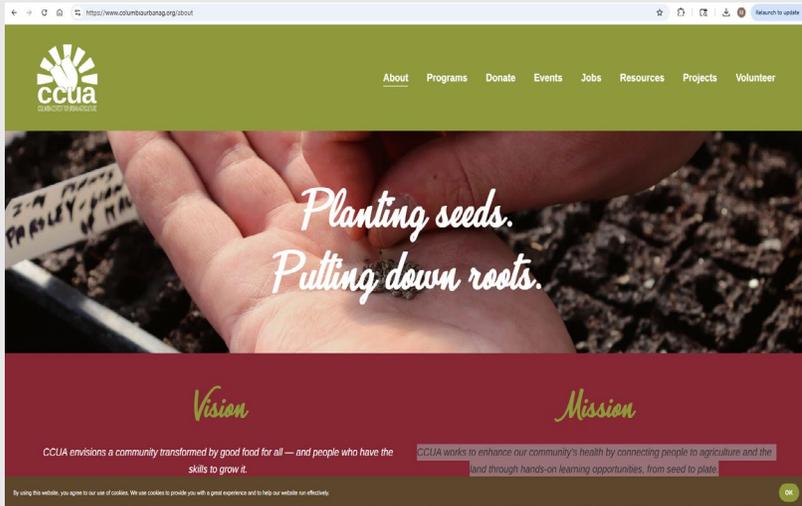
- Needs more than 1 super gardener
- Make Lasting Relationships



Mission

- What is the garden trying to accomplish
- What's it gonna be in 5 years 10 years

*Columbia Center For Urban Ag -16 years



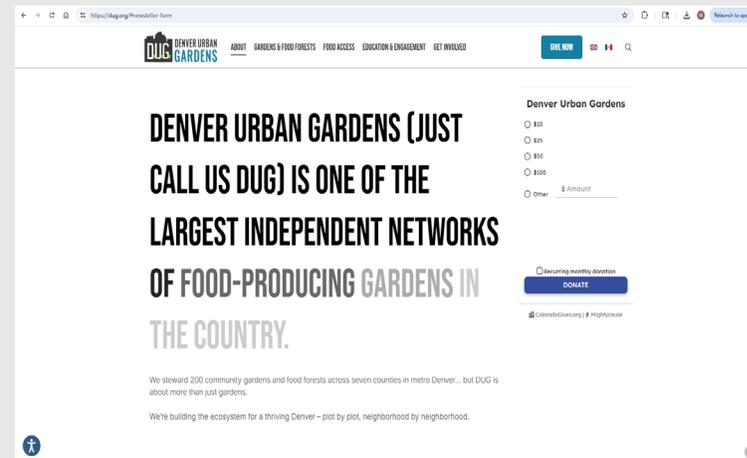
CCUA works to enhance our community's health by connecting people to agriculture and the land through hands-on learning opportunities, from seed to plate.

*Look at their partners and funders when available



*CommonWealth OKC
15 years

- CommonWealth Urban Farms is made up of a dedicated group of people who are growing and composting on urbanized land in Oklahoma City.
- **Our mission** is to grow food, equip a network of urban gardeners, create local jobs, turn local waste into compost, and connect Oklahoma City neighbors in the process.



*Denver Urban Gardens
-since 80's

We're on a mission to increase the **access, skills, and resources** needed to grow food in community and regenerate urban green spaces.
We're cultivating a sustainable urban future for metro Denver where people are connected to the earth, each other, and the food they eat.

Funding-Easy To Find

- Grants
 - They run out: can you accomplish the goals you set out to do
 - Always Looking Applying
- Private Donors
 - Need someone to be soliciting
- Donations
 - Large Companies City

USDA

ome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcgiciefndmkaj/https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/SCBGPDescriptionofFunds2025.pdf

ams.usda.gov / SCBGPDescript...ofFunds2025

ent summary Generative AI User Guidelines

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
4. Surveillance and Identification of Potato Viruses in Oklahoma	The University of Tulsa will lead a comprehensive survey across commercial potato fields in Oklahoma to collect samples for virus screening, identify and develop an educational bulletin providing management recommendations for growers and county extension agents.	\$89,780.00
5. Use of Biostimulants to Improve Production of Ornamentals and Vegetables	Research at Oklahoma State University will use naturally derived biostimulants to improve plant health by increasing water/nutrient retention and managing stress allowing for increased plant growth of specialty crops with information being provided to stakeholders.	\$76,200.00
6. Evaluation of Phyla Nodiflora for Use as a Sod or Nursery Product in Oklahoma	Oklahoma State University will create opportunities for green industry partners through development of novel nursery and sod products using Phyla nodiflora.	\$88,515.00
7. Oklahoma Local Ag Summit	The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (ODAFF) will assist members of the specialty crop supply chain to incorporate innovative and sustainable growing practices, learn new marketing techniques, and connect with consumers more effectively.	\$100,000.00
Grant Administration	Ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations by performing pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.	\$50,970.70

Oregon Department of Agriculture: Amount of Funds Awarded: \$2,255,953.95; Number of Sub-awards: 14*

The Oregon Department of Agriculture will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers through a variety of activities/projects with their grant recipients. The State's sub-awards include 4 research projects, 1 education and outreach project, 4 marketing projects and 4 projects that cross more than one focus area to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including hazelnuts, fescue grass, onions, cherries, strawberries, and rhododendron throughout the State of Oregon.

* This number includes a sub-award for grant administration.

72

Project Title	Description	Project Budget
1. Metro Farm Direct Market	The Community Development Corporation of Oregon will build upon 5 years of	

The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (ODAFF) administers the [USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program \(SCBGP\)](#) to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops—fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, and horticulture—through competitive funding. Eligible entities include non-profits, government agencies, and universities, with projects needing to provide widespread benefits to the industry rather than to a single producer.

Funding-Easy to Find

- USDA-[NRCS High Tunnel Initiative](#)
- Helps pay for hoophouse
- Phocus Farms-Edmond
 - Familiar with the grant
 - Great Houses



https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/eqip-high-tunnel-initiative

An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know](#)

Subscribe | [About NRCS](#) | [farmers.gov](#) | [USDA.gov](#) | [Contact Us](#)

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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CONSERVATION BASICS GETTING ASSISTANCE STATE OFFICES PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES RESOURCES NEWS & EVENTS

High Tunnel Initiative

EQIP

[Home](#) > [Programs & Initiatives](#) > High Tunnel Initiative

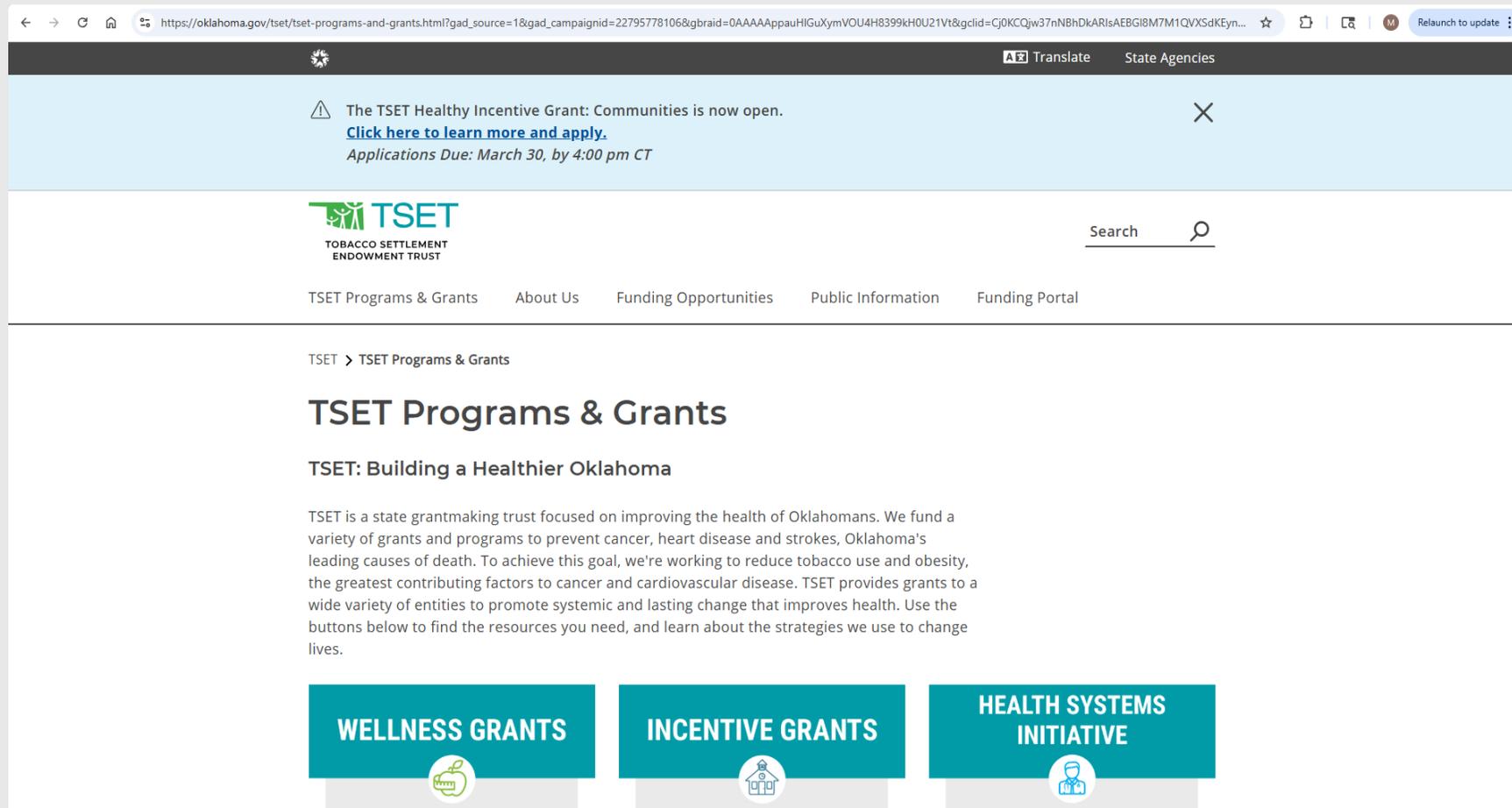
A High Tunnel System, commonly called a "hoop house," is an increasingly popular conservation practice for farmers, and is available with financial assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

With high tunnel systems, no summer is too short or winter too cold because high tunnels:

- Extend the growing season

Funding-Easy to Find

- TSET: Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust
- Promotes Healthier Oklahoma
- Can be great funder/partner



The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the TSET website. At the top, there is a notification banner with a warning icon and the text: "The TSET Healthy Incentive Grant: Communities is now open. [Click here to learn more and apply.](#) Applications Due: March 30, by 4:00 pm CT". Below the banner is the TSET logo, which includes a stylized green tree and the text "TSET TOBACCO SETTLEMENT ENDOWMENT TRUST". To the right of the logo is a search bar with the word "Search" and a magnifying glass icon. Below the logo and search bar is a navigation menu with the following items: "TSET Programs & Grants", "About Us", "Funding Opportunities", "Public Information", and "Funding Portal". The main content area features a breadcrumb trail "TSET > TSET Programs & Grants" followed by the heading "TSET Programs & Grants". Below this is the sub-heading "TSET: Building a Healthier Oklahoma" and a paragraph of text: "TSET is a state grantmaking trust focused on improving the health of Oklahomans. We fund a variety of grants and programs to prevent cancer, heart disease and strokes, Oklahoma's leading causes of death. To achieve this goal, we're working to reduce tobacco use and obesity, the greatest contributing factors to cancer and cardiovascular disease. TSET provides grants to a wide variety of entities to promote systemic and lasting change that improves health. Use the buttons below to find the resources you need, and learn about the strategies we use to change lives." At the bottom of the page, there are three teal-colored buttons with white text and icons: "WELLNESS GRANTS" with an apple icon, "INCENTIVE GRANTS" with a house icon, and "HEALTH SYSTEMS INITIATIVE" with a person icon.

Funding-Harder to Find

Titos Vodka-ODB

- Block to Block Grant
- Helped With Pavillion
- Decomposed Granite Walkway

- Kubota Grant



https://www.titosvodka.com/block-to-block

began as building raised beds and planting seedlings has evolved into improving animal shelters, supporting veteran centers and programs, conserving natural spaces, and more.

Through Block to Block, we're reconnecting communities through transformative volunteer projects, one block at a time.

In the Press

 <p>Tito's + Nashville Food Project: The Perfect Match The Nashville Food Project Nashville, TN Learn more</p>	 <p>Tito's Handmade Vodka provides upgrades to community garden, nonprofit Our Daily Bread Stillwater, OK Learn more</p>	 <p>Tito's Vodka Teams With Boston Area Gleaners On Farm Restoration Project Boston Area Gleaners Acton, MA Learn more</p>	 <p>Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance and volunteers working to complete Trinity Community Garden Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance Little Rock, AR Learn more</p>
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2026 PROJECTS (COMING SOON!)

Activate Windows
Go to Settings to activate Windows.



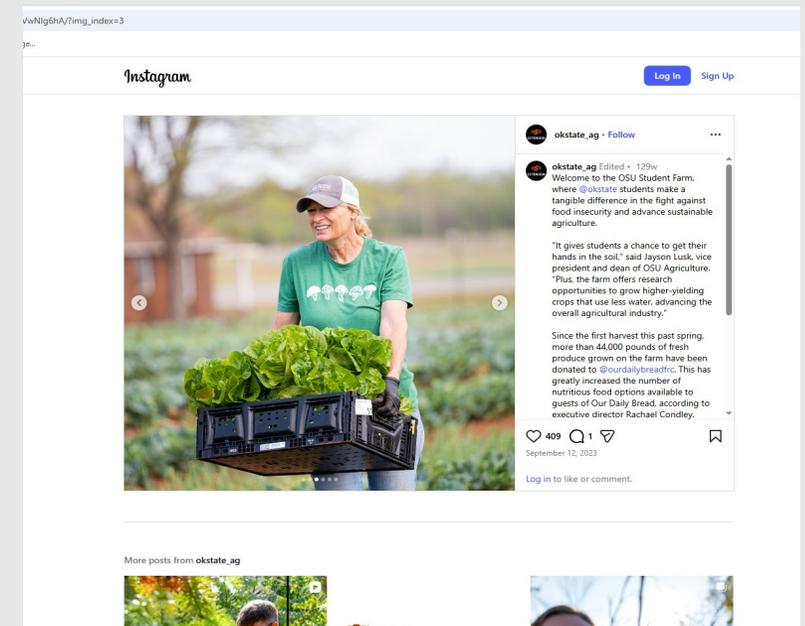
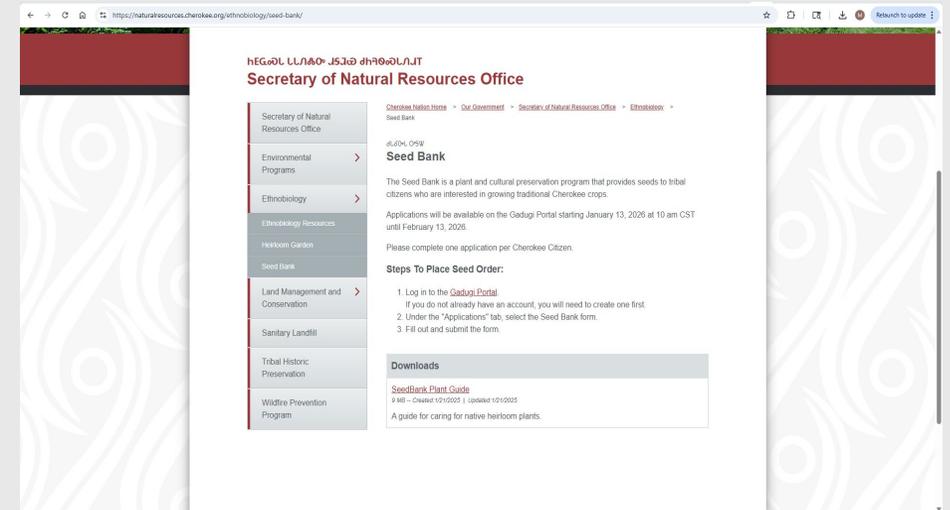
Crops

- Know what does well in Oklahoma: your area
- Timing-Soil, Weather, Farm to Fork Kids
- Grow what you like to eat
- Keep Great Records-If you didn't write it down it didn't happen!



How to Sustain-Keep People Interested/Acquire New People

- Programming
 - Youth and Adult
 - Osage Host Site-Two Youths
 - Get Creative
- Social Media
 - Dedicated Person, Highlight Vegetables
 - Get the Word Out
- How to classes
 - irrigation, seed starting, fertilization, cooking, preserving
 - Extension Folk
- Seed Saving
 - Bank, Library
 - Create a Native Seed Bank (Cherokees)
 - History Of Native Plants/Uses



General Information Sources Okstate Extension

- Vegetable grades:

- <https://www.ams.usda.gov/grades-standards/vegetables>
- USDA nutritional contents:
- <https://fdc.nal.usda.gov/>

- Crop Info:

- E-995 Oklahoman's Guide
- HLA-6036 Soil test interp.
- Vegetables characteristics, production, and marketing. 1987. L.C. Peirce. Wiley, NY, NY

- Recommended varieties

- HLA-6035 Commercial Vegetable Varieties

- Vegetable Trial Reports:

- <http://www.hortla.okstate.edu/outreach/veget>

*Under Construction

OSU Factsheets:

<http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/View/Collection-228>

OKLAHOMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE HLA-6026



Squash and Pumpkin Production

June 2019

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Origin and Families
Squash and pumpkin originated in the Americas including parts of South America, Mexico and Central America. Well before they were adopted by Europeans, the seed of these important crops were carried into northern regions of the Americas by Native Americans to be grown as important food crops (Peirce, 1987). This group of cucurbits includes members from *Cucurbita maxima* (i.e., winter squash), *C. pepo* (summer squash, pumpkin), *C. moschata* (squash and pumpkins with narrow necks) and *C. mixta* (cushaws and pear-shaped pumpkins).



Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Fact Sheets are also available on our website at: facts.okstate.edu

Flowering is monoicous, meaning there are separate male and female flowers on the same plant. What that means for fruit production is that pollen from the male flowers must be transferred onto the stigma of the female flower primarily by insect pollinators, therefore, protecting and managing pollinator insects is critical for fruiting. Better pollination translates to more seeds formed in the fruit, and therefore larger fruit within a given species.

Squash and pumpkin production are limited by high labor requirements for harvesting and difficulty in controlling virus diseases. There is evidence that the use of sorghum x Sudangrass or other annual warm-season forage grasses can reduce the level of virus in cucurbit crops when planted as windrows between rows of squash.

Good yield for summer squash under irrigation in Oklahoma is 8 tons per acre or 400 bushel cartons. With good management and growing conditions, winter squash and pumpkin will yield 12 tons per acre or more. Yields of 15 to 20 tons per acre of pumpkin are possible.

Sites and Soils
Soil types for squash production can vary, with loams and sandy loams preferred. If soil drainage is less than optimal, squash will benefit from the formation of free-standing raised soil beds. These beds can be formed by using a commercial

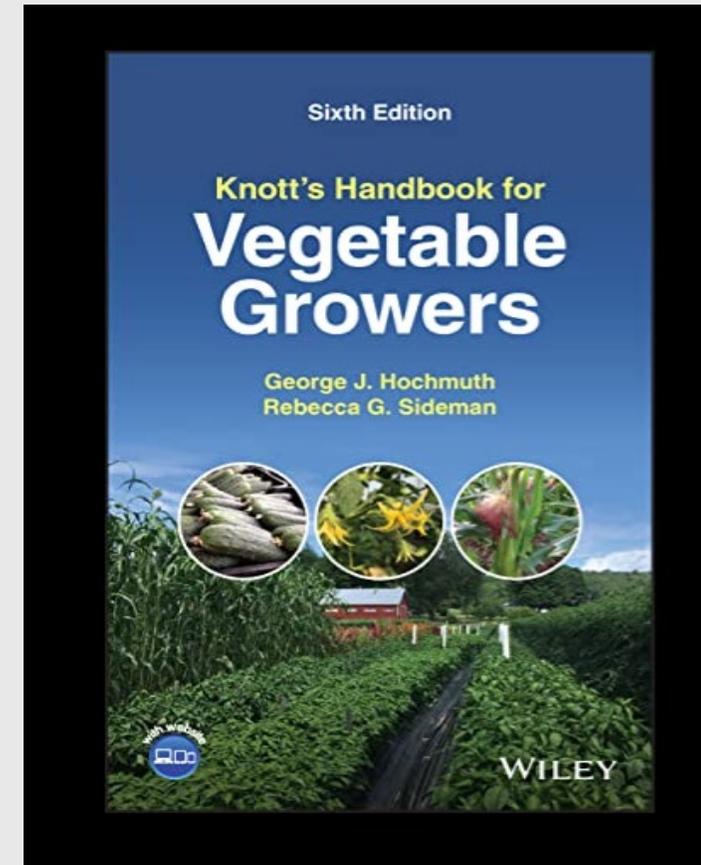
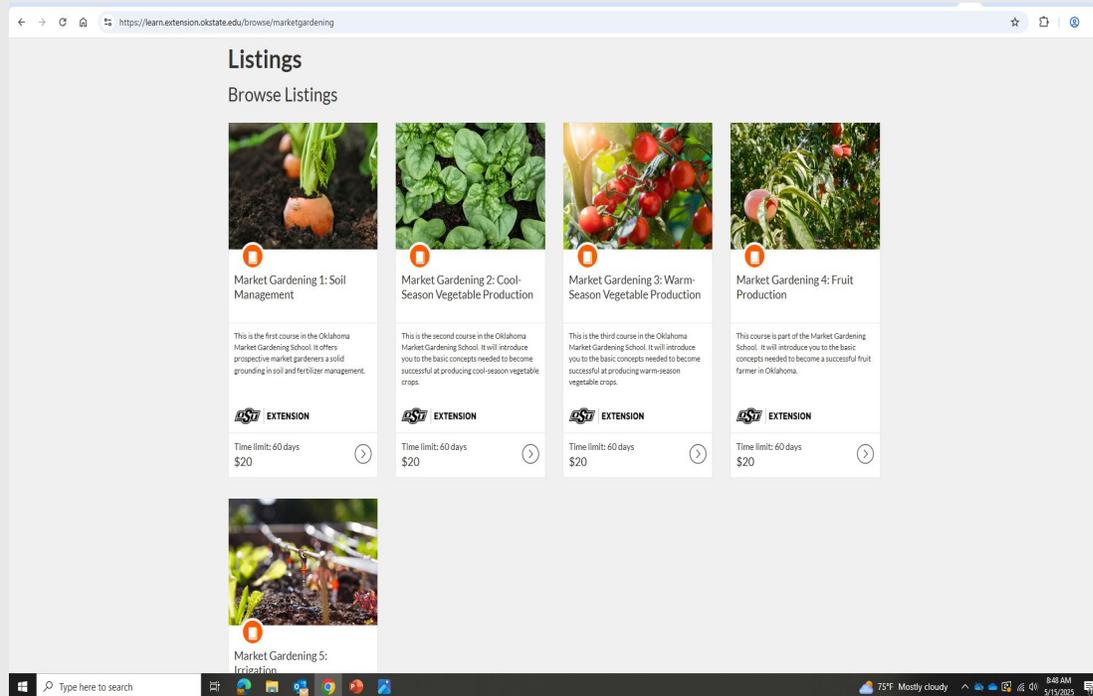
Google: okstate extension [pumpkin](#) factsheet

Other Resources

Knott's Handbook for Vegetable Growers 5th edition

Market Gardening Online School

<https://extension.okstate.edu/programs/extension-online-courses/>



Other Resources

- Raised Beds
- In ground
- Combo
- Season Extension
- Tools



construction-of-table-gardens-hla-6455.pdf

English Department... Home Page - Osage...

construction-of-table-gardens-hla-6455.pdf 1 / 6 100%

OKLAHOMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE HLA-6455

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

Construction of Table Gardens

October 2018

Casey Hentges
Assistant Extension Specialist

Qing Lana Luo
Assistant Professor, Extension Landscape Architecture Specialist

Laura Payne
Extension Associate

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are also available on our website at:
facts.okstate.edu

Everyone should have the opportunity to garden, however, traditional gardening at ground level can be physically demanding on your knees and back. Often, it requires bending, stooping and kneeling, which can be challenging for some people. Bringing the planting bed up to waist height can provide a more comfortable opportunity to garden. It also provides head-on access for people who sit in wheelchairs and allows their knees to go under the raised planter sitting straight.

Table gardens have all the same benefits of other raised beds, such as improved planting media, good drainage and reduced weed encroachment. Table gardens are ideal for temporary gardening locations, poor soils, outdoor classrooms, paved areas and small patios.

Building a Table Garden

Materials:	Tools:
55-gallon plastic barrel (food grade)	Reciprocating saw
140 inches 4x4-inch posts	Circular saw or miter chop
322 inches 2x4-inch boards	Saw
216 inches of decking board	Tape measure
Several 1 5/8-inch screws	Triangle
Several 2 1/2-inch screws	Clamps
Washers	Pencil
Sand Paper	Drill with screw bit
All-weather wood sealer	



Other Resources

- Food Hubs
- OLAC-Oklahoma Local AG Collaborative
- Food is Medicine



Tools/Machinery

- BCS
 - Has a little of everything
 - Smaller scale than conventional tractor
 - Dealer in Sand Springs
- Tractors
- Hand Tools



My First Communication With Chris

- Community Gardening In Our DNA
- Individualism took over
- Comfort/Convenience

QUESTIONS?



Olive with an Onza summer 25