Growing with the seasons: Incarcerated adults cultivate native plants and a gardening curriculum

Carly Rose and Dionné Mejía

Sustainability in Prisons Project
Institute for Applied Ecology
Conservation Nursery Projects

- Taylor’s checkerspot butterfly recovery - nursery seed and plant production, restoration sites in the Salish lowland prairie
- Seed Production of *Viola spp.* and recalcitrant species
- Wetland Emergent Vegetated Mats
- Horticultural Mentoring
Some plants for TCB recovery include: Armeria maritima, Balsamorhiza deltoidea, Castilleja hispida, Fragaria virginiana, Lomatium triternatum, Lomatium utriculatum, Plantago lanceolata
Seed Production

- Focus on species that benefit from hand cultivation and harvest: 
  *Hieracium scouleri, Silene douglasii, Silene scouleri, Viola adunca, Viola howellii, Viola praemorsa*, and *Packera macounii*. 
Emergent Vegetated Mats

- Project partners include Center for Natural Lands Management, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA Dept. Fish & Wildlife, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and Samish Nation.
- Wetland plants pre-installed in coir mats for plant establishment and weed suppression.
- Experiments to establish habitat for the Oregon spotted frog and outcompete invasive species.
Species grown for Emergent Vegetated Mats: *Carex exsiccata*, *Carex comosa*, *Carex obnupta*, *Carex lenticularis*, *Juncus supiniformis*, *Glyceria elata*
Sustainability in Prisons Project - Oregon

- CCCF growing native plants for threatened Oregon silverspot butterfly (*Speyeria zerene ippolyta*)
- *Viola adunca* for larvae and nectar species (*Solidago elongate, Anaphalis margaritacea, Symphyotrichum chilense*) for adults
Sagebrush in Prisons Project

- Improve habitat for Greater sage-grouse by engaging incarcerated adults in the production of sagebrush for habitat restoration on BLM lands.
- Provide ecological education and vocation training to incarcerated adults.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Daily Watering 1 (Y/N)</th>
<th>Daily Watering 2 (Y/N)</th>
<th>Fertilize (Y/N)</th>
<th>Daily Observations</th>
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Please note plant activity each day. Write down your concerns or questions and give them to the office to pass on to the contractor.
Education Series
Gardening Curriculum

- Stafford Creek Corrections Center (SCCC) garden program & conservation nursery
- Monroe Correctional Complex-Washington State Reformatory Unit (MCC-WSRU) compost & gardening programs

SPP Sustainability in Prisons Project
- Carly Rose, SPP Curriculum Development Coordinator, with input from
- Joslyn Trivett, SPP Education & Outreach Manager
- Kelli Bush, SPP Co-Director and
- Carl Elliott, SPP Conservation Nursery Manager

Institute for Applied Ecology
Dionné Mejía, Advanced Topics author and editor

SEED to SUPPER
SPP is revising the initial curriculum for relevancy to in-prison programs.
Core Curriculum

1. Guide to Teaching and Learning

Seed to Supper

2. Planning your garden
3. Getting started with healthy soil
4. Planting your garden
5. Caring for your growing garden: Part I
6. Caring for your growing garden: Part II
7. Harvesting, Nutrition, & Using the bounty

Advanced Topics

8. History and Social Context in U.S. Gardening
9. Horticulture
10. Mathematics for Horticulture
11. Composting

Botany

12. Naming & Classifying Plants
13. Plant Cells & Metabolism
14. Roots & Stems

Climate specific

15. Climate and Plant Hardiness Zones
16. Planting & Harvesting Vegetables
17. Tilth Guide (Guide to Regionally Specific Gardening)
18. How to Make a Proposal

Supplementary Topics

Aquaponics and Hydroponics
- Hydroponics
- Aquaponics
- Aquaponics & Hydroponics: Part II

Soil
- Alternative Composting: Vermicomposting and Bokashi
- Soil Science Part I: Soil Makeup and the Soil Food-Web
- Soil Science Part II: Soil Biochemistry

Seeds
- Seeds
- Seed Production
- Describing & Recognizing Seeds

Outside Community: Returning and Connecting
- Finding resources and programs
- Gardening Outside Prison
- Urban Gardening

Additional
- Beekeeping
- Identifying the Characteristics of Healthy Plants
- Gardening Techniques for Prison
- Organic Lawn Maintenance
Reflection: Reasons for Gardening

Look at the following wheel of life domains. What are the three areas of life that have the most potential to be affected by gardening? Everyone’s reasons for gardening will vary. You may leave some areas blank, and that’s okay.

Reconvene as a group and, if you choose, take turns sharing with one another ideas and thoughts that came up for you during this process.