

## Quotes about the Community Teaching Garden from 2009 participants

It was amazing to return week after week and see so much change going on in one single plot of land. This was the first time I ate food I had grown myself (much of it I ate straight from the ground!), and it was absolutely delicious. It made me question what I had been eating before... The tomatoes were out of this world! Vegetables tasted like vegetables, for the first time. I feel that I am now confident about preparing the beds, planting, weeding, harvesting, and preparing the beds for winter, and would certainly share those skills with others. In fact, I think I've probably already shared a decent amount of knowledge with others just in the course of conversations this summer!

-- Jackie Liebman, Burlington

It was nice to have my own plot, but then also to share community space. The support from the group was really encouraging as well. The potlucks were a wonderful way to share food from our gardens, our cooking skills, and also to share our families with one another. I think the program did very well in giving me the skills and confidence to have a garden again next season and to show others some of what I know. Even throughout the season I was able to talk with people at work about gardening. I feel like I have a good foundation in organic gardening and believe that food really can be grown without chemicals!

-- Tori Maley, Burlington

I think that I learned a lot about gardening, especially good tips for gardening in an organic way. Throughout the summer, I passed a lot of what I was learning on to friends and family, especially the blight information which some others hadn't heard about. This coming year, I will definitely incorporate what I learned into my preschool class curriculum and try to do a lot more gardening and outdoor education with them. I also am beginning work as a leader of a Daisy Troop and want to incorporate gardening into our community service as well.

-- Becky Groberg, Burlington

We came as nervous novices, and left as good friends and real gardeners! In spite of the weather, this was one of the best summers I can remember, and being at the garden was a huge part of that. It was great that a service component is built right into the class through volunteer opportunities like the Veggie Ball and also various plant sales and other community happenings. The class introduced us to other ideas and other people in the community who are sharing this vision, and also gives you the confidence to go out there and keep volunteering since you already know you can do these things!

-- Angie Lindstrom, Burlington

The course was very well designed to include theory and discussion, and the hands-on aspect of the actual planting and growing. I enjoyed all of the vegetables, and found that I had tons to harvest throughout the entire season. Growing the vegetables gave me a new found respect for them, and each and every one was well prepared and served at home.

-- Gillian Homsted, Burlington

It was great to go through the whole cycle of clearing space, aerating beds, staking them out, planting, and growing. I had a ton of zucchini, cucumbers, lettuce, basil, peppers, onions, carrots and tomatoes. And they were all so delicious! I feel that I have enough of a knowledge base to have a plot next year. You always learn from doing!

-- Nick Meltzer, Burlington

I feel much more confident about having my own garden and experimenting with things. The main thing I learned was an attitude of patience and acceptance dealing with insects and weather. I'm hoping to have a plot at the Shelburne community garden next year, and I'll be working with the town's Parks and Recreation department to expand its gardening opportunities.

-- Ron Miller, Shelburne

This class is a great study in success against adversity. Weeks of rain and cold, then dry, then blight—and yet most of us got more food than we could eat. If a bunch of newbies can garden successfully under those conditions, anyone can.

-- Will Workman, Williston

I loved having time to explore options for different parts of the garden, choosing what we planted and learning how to best plant certain things, watching the garden evolve into food and what that means to different people. All amazing . . . thank you!

-- Melissa Farr, Burlington

With such a strong new foundation/education in organic gardening, and realizing it's possible to be successful in such an endeavor, I'm very encouraged that I can take what I've learned and apply it. Coming into the program, it seemed like a really big commitment. But as time passed, relationships and friendships were formed, and vegetables were grown and harvested. We were diligent about using our produce, and I'm excited to report that we've got a freezer downstairs full of pesto, tomato sauce, soups, veggie burgers, etc that we'll be enjoying throughout the winter! I constantly find myself smiling and saying "...only in Vermont!"

-- Meredith Evans, Burlington