

Dear Garden Stakeholders:

Once again, we had a very wonderful and productive year in the garden thanks to all of you! I want to personally thank you for all your time and energy! Here is how you impacted our community at the GCPC Community Garden in 2024 and 2025 (there was no report at the end of 2024 due to Hurricane Helene).

2024 brought us many challenges starting with bad drought conditions throughout the summer, blight that wiped out some of our tomatoes and then a hurricane that blew over some of our crops! Despite this, we were able to be resilient and share the remaining produce from the garden with the hurricane relief center at the church. In 2024, we shared just over 6,000 pounds of fresh food with our partners in spite of the crop losses.

2025 brought us opportunities for reconnection and healing in the garden. It was a great growing year with plentiful rain throughout most of the spring and summer seasons. Volunteer turnout was a little lower as everyone was still recovering from the hurricane impacts, but we still managed to share over 7,500 pounds of fresh produce with our partners, including a new local Thanksgiving share market.

At the end of this document is a chart that shows our production of specific crops and the totals for the last four years. As you can see, our garden consistently produces about 7,500 lbs/ year of fresh vegetables for the community!

I want to send a special thanks to our four team leaders, as without them, this garden would not be as successful as it is. Paul Stroebe and Pam Baker have been our two intrepid team leaders for several years. Bryant Smith started his first year as team leader this past year and did a great job. Unfortunately one of our long-time team leaders, Barb Toth, passed away. She was a great friend to many of you and a dedicated garden volunteer. The garden didn't feel quite the same without her this year, and Barb will continue to be greatly missed as we move forward into next year.

In thinking about 2026, we will be looking for new folks for team leaders where new ones are needed, so please consider filling that role. We also hope to have more opportunities for volunteer fellowship and will be looking for folks to help lead a few events. Some of our partners that help distribute our produce may be going through some changes in 2026, but we continued to work with beloved partners of Grace Covenant the last two years. Here is how our partners lovingly distributed or used our produce:

***Loving Food Resources** adds our produce to 100 food boxes packed with staples (canned soup and stews, peanut butter, etc.) which is distributed to people with HIV(85%) and home hospice care(15%) Many of these people are struggling with a lack of nourishing food, and a high percentage are seniors.

***YWCA** feeds lunch and snacks to 145 children, ages 5 and under, living in poverty. Every Friday the nutritionist does a program with the little littles introducing a new vegetable. It takes a

couple of times for them to try something new before they gobble it up.

***WNC Rescue Mission** cooks our produce to feed lunch and dinner daily to 500 individuals. It is also added to food boxes to feed families who are in need of food, particularly fresh produce.

***Youth Transformed for Life (YTL)** creates bridges for Asheville area youth and their families to overcome gaps in disparity through advocacy, educational programming, social and emotional support, and enrichment opportunities. The youth programs are hosted at Grace Covenant, and our produce was brought up to the church on Wednesdays to distribute to the YTL families as they picked up their children.

As you can see, our garden nourished many! And we know it also nourished many of you. Thank you for your love and kindness, and I look forward to seeing you in the garden in 2026!

Allison Kiehl

GCPC Community Garden Manager

Pounds of Produce Grown at GCPC Garden				
	2025	2024*	2023	2022**
Basil	38.1	45.2	38.2	142.0
Beans	211.7	364.6	461.5	410.0
Beets	18.7	29.9	14.3	0.0
Broccoli	206.5	282.6	130.6	138.0
Cabbage	653.0	662.5	917.3	929.0
Cabbage, Napa	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cabbage (Jasperwood Farm)	0.0	0.0	0.0	6,500.0
Carrots	129.0	46.2	57.5	0.0
Chard	117.7	59.1	116.9	128.0
Cilantro	15.5	9.6	3.8	4.0
Collards	1,122.1	855.5	818.4	673.0
Cucumber	900.0	400.3	464.5	402.0
Eggplant	6.6	19.0	29.9	16.0
Garlic	26.0	47.8	133.3	69.0

Kale	81.8	81.2	140.3	152.0
Lettuce	267.0	294.3	513.8	467.0
Okra	6.0	12.3	0.0	9.0
Onions	202.0	351.0	326.5	520.0
Parsley	10.5	21.5	22.7	30.0
Peppers, Bell	483.8	274.0	515.9	527.0
Peppers, Snacking	44.0	51.3	61.3	82.0
Peppers, Hot	0.0	13.9	15.9	112.0
Potatoes (Jasperwood Farm)	0.0	0.0	0.0	3,310.0
Spinach	307.0	358.2	265.5	119.0
Squash, Summer	722.1	452.7	482.0	622.0
Squash, Winter	542.0	120.0	106.0	251.0
Tomatoes	1,464.4	1,268.3	1,784.2	1,707.0
Turnips	0.0	56.0	83.6	96.0
Turnips (Jasperwood Farm)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	4.0	16.0	16.8	62.0
TOTAL	7,579.5	6,192.9	7,520.5	17,477.0
TOTAL WITHOUT JASPERWOOD PRODUCE				7,667.0
VOLUNTEER HOURS (approximate)	1,132.0	1,392.0	1,386.0	1,972.0
**Partnership with Jasperwood Farm ended after 2022.				
*Bad drought year, late blight on 1 bed of tomatoes, and Hurricane Helene destroyed crops in September				