

2018 Report for Heritage Garden at Crossroads

Each year, the members of Heritage Garden at Crossroads meet during the winter to select the varieties of vegetables and flowers for the upcoming year to add to those seeds we have saved. All varieties of plants are heirloom developed before 1910 (preferably those commonly grown between 1890-1910). The previous fall, members saved seeds from the Grandpa Ott's Morning Glories, Cleome, State fair and California Zinnia's, Little Gem Marigolds, Potatoes and Scarlet Runner beans. Dahlia tubers were also saved.

This year, in addition to these saved seeds, we selected and planted beets (Bulls blood), Carrots (Danvers), Peppers (King of the North), Corn (Golden Bantam), Cucumbers (Early fortune), Brussels Sprouts (Long Island Improved), Tomatoes (Brandywine, John Baer, and Isis Candy Cherry), Kale, Basil, and Onion sets.

In year's past, we have had a garden typical of the English – orderly rows. This year, our format was changed to squares typical of a German garden. We plotted and planted each using companion plants. An attempt was made to control the cucumbers by planting them among the corn to encourage them to use the stalks for support. This was met with mild success. We continue to expand the use of open pollinator flowers along with our vegetables to encourage the bees, butterflies and birds. Outside the walls of our garden on the East and North sides, we have a mixture of perennials and annual flowers. Our goal is to have continuous blooms from May through October.

We created walkways between the squares, which encouraged visitors to enter the garden. We repositioned the bench in the SW corner with a trellis of sweet peas behind to offer a place for visitors to linger. In addition, during various festivals at the Heritage Village and Crossroads, we taught adults and children how to harvest the crops and they took home those freshly picked vegetables. A portion of the harvest was distributed between the two food pantries in Sturgeon Bay. It is estimated that we donated over 50 lbs. of produce. In the fall, we again saved seeds for next year and planted a cover crop of annual rye in three of the squares. We will begin the process of preparing for the 2019 season after the holidays.