

Event #7: The Couple *Begins Homesteading, Building A Community Garden, & Modeling A Movement*

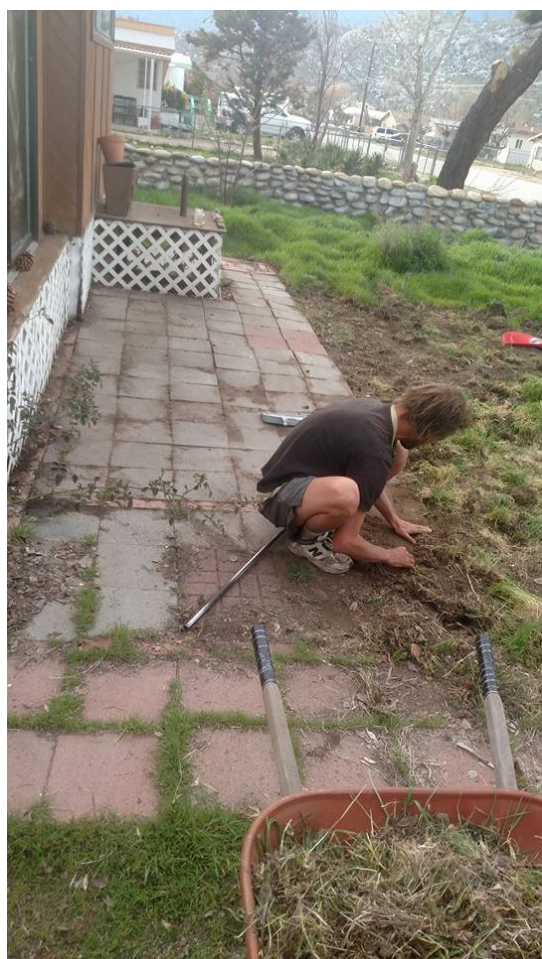
EVENT #7: The Couple Begins *Cultivating the Land, Homesteading The Property, & Modeling a Movement*



Spring; The Gardening *Begins...*



View from front yard toward Lake Isabella Blvd. On 12-14-2016.



Mr. Byrd clearing the grass in the front.



3-2-2016.

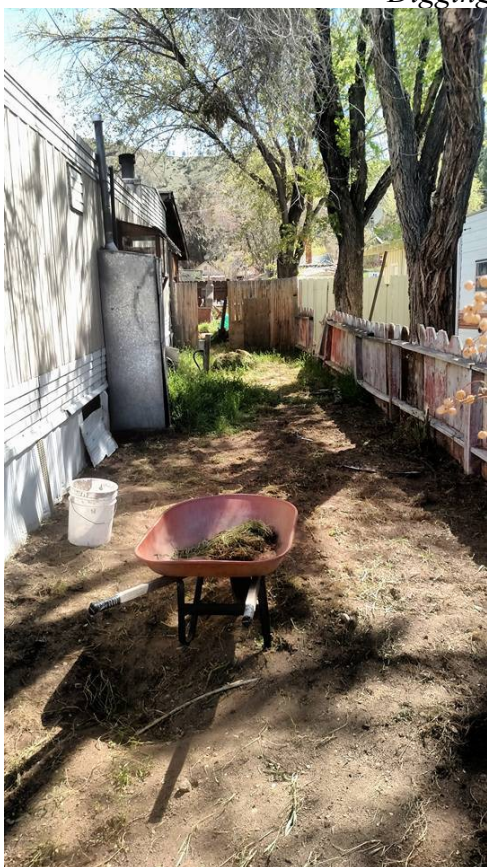


On 3-2-2016 these were uploaded to Facebook.

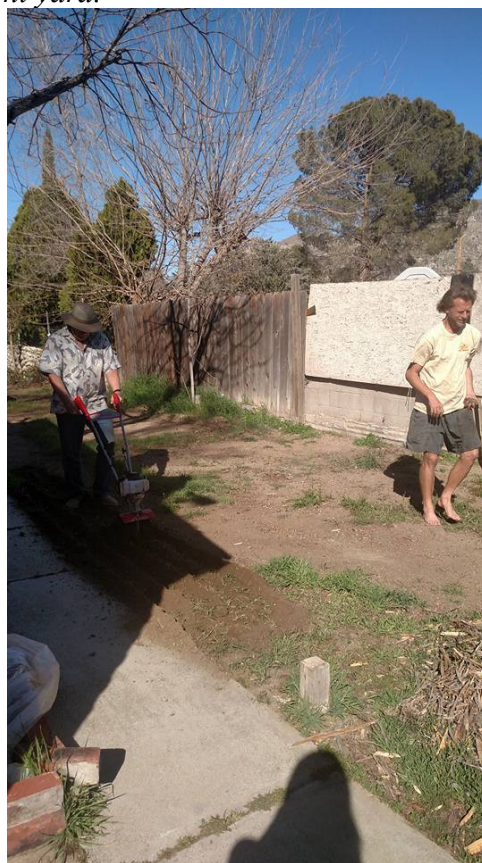
Churning The Soil By Shovel



Digging into the front yard.



Removing the grass along the west side yard.



Our neighbor Rudy helped to churn the soil in the side yard.

They Installed A *Cucumber Teepee*:



3-8-2016 Ms. Wilson erected a Cucumber Teepee in the front yard.
Photo by Laura Walters.



After adding more rungs a couple days later.



4-12-2016 when cucumbers first came up.



4-25-2016 update.

Types of Heirloom Cucumbers Planted Here:



"Ashley Cucumbers"- photo
source: (Fair use-- First
Amendment):
http://www.harvesttotable.com/2009/03/how_to_grow_cucumber/



"Early Fortune
Cucumbers"- photo
source:
<http://back2basichealth.blogspot.com/2014/03/growing-cucumber-from-seed-to-harvest.html>



"Great Boston Heirloom
Pickling Cucumbers"
photo
source: <http://www.amazon.com/Cucumber-DGS30098A-Seeds-Davids-Garden/dp/B00E52JEXS>



5-5-2016 cucumbers like a lot of water.



Morning of 5-11-2016.

They Used Square Bricks To Cover & Protect The Natural Gas Pipeline *From Shovel Damage*:



& Added Soil Conditioner & Compost Throughout The Yard:



They Planted “Corn, Beans, & Squash”- *called The Three Sisters Technique Traditionally:*

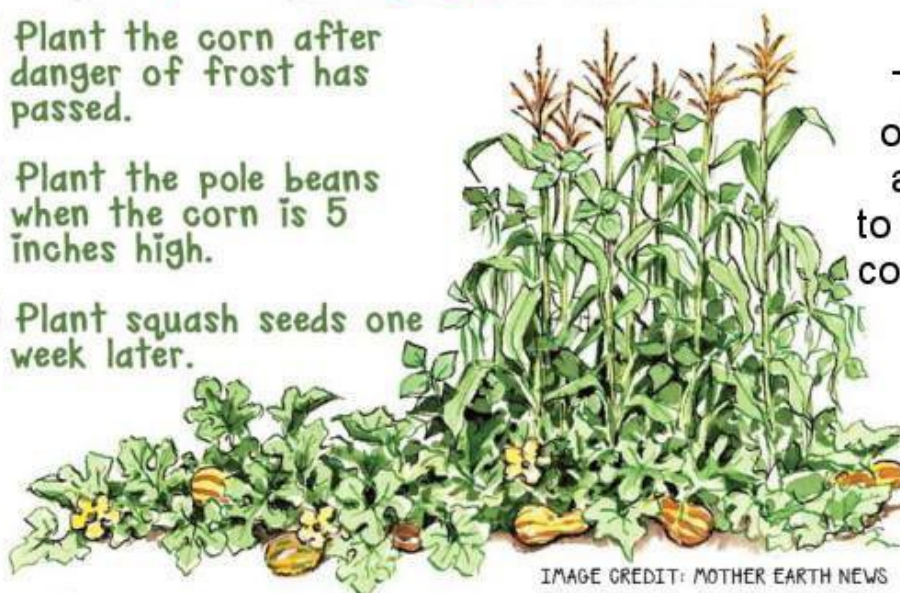
A *diagram* developed by Ms. Wilson using a *drawing* from **Mother Earth News**:

"The 3 Sisters" method of growing corn, beans, & squash together is a form of "companion planting" (when done properly), this technique has been performed for thousands of years by several Native American tribes, including the Haudenosaunee people (called "Iroquois" by the French), the Tewa, the Anasazi, & others. a wise, simple form of highly-productive, renewable resource acquisition:

1) Plant the corn after danger of frost has passed.

2) Plant the pole beans when the corn is 5 inches high.

3) Plant squash seeds one week later.



The beans hang off the corn leaves, and add nitrogen to the soil, which the corn (especially) uses.

Corn, beans, & squash together as a dish is a form of "succotash".

The large leaves of the squash help keep the moisture in & the weeds from growing up, amounting to less work, less water usage, & greater yield!

Please see "The Outgrow The Economy" Campaign on www.WildWillpower.org; May the Forest Be With You!!

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Photo of Glass Gem kernels Mr. Byrd ordered online.



*Photo from "Sacred Ecology":
<http://sacredecologyfilms.com/the-story-of-glass-gem-corn/>*



Feeding the heirloom corn kernels broth made from wildharvested Nettles. Nettles is traditionally used to nourish plants.

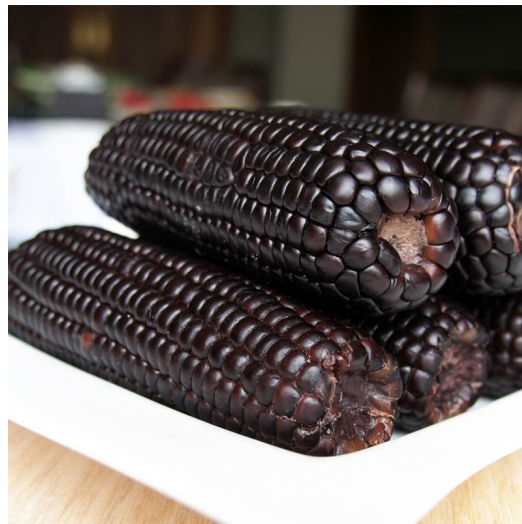
They Also Planted Heirloom *Bantam Sweet* and *Iroquois Black Sweet Corn*:



The couple planted 5 sets of mounds like this in the front yard.



Heirloom Bantam Sweet Corn-
photo source: <http://www.organic-heirloom-seeds.com/product-p/corn-golden-bantam.htm>



Heirloom Black Sweet Corn- photo
source:
http://www.aliexpress.com/store/product/Original-packaging-sweet-corn-seeds-black-waxy-corn-seeds-organic-vegetables-rich-nutrient-good-taste-12/816236_32362601669.html

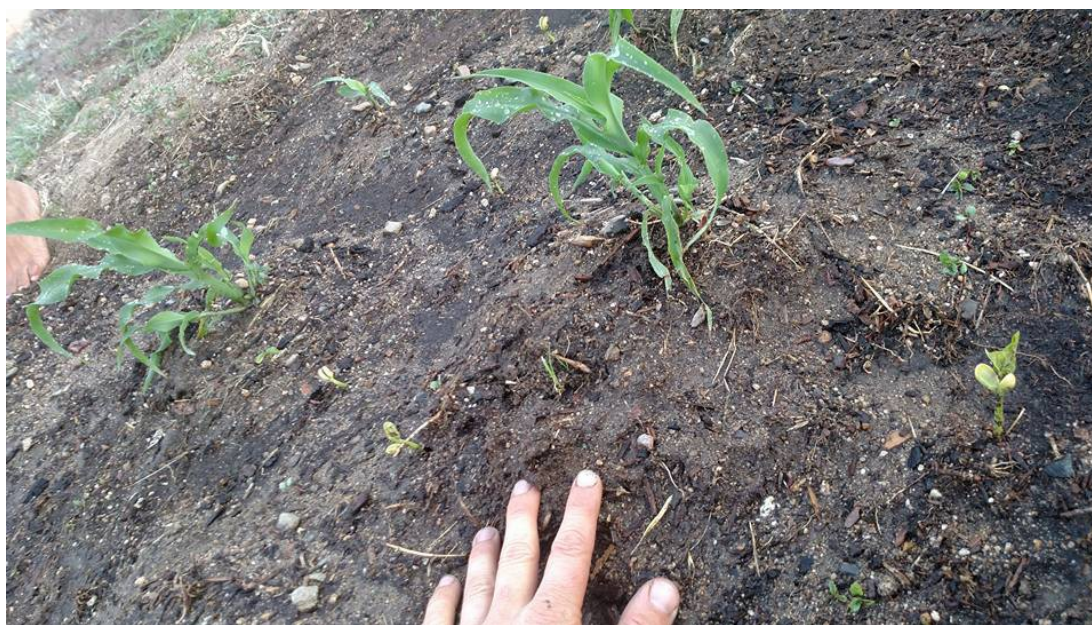
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Just starting to come up!



Black Sweet Corn



In this photo you'll notice a couple beans coming up.

Anasazi & Rattlesnake Snap Beans:



*Rattlesnake Snap Peas- photo source:
<http://www.nantahala-farm.com/rattlesnake-beans-seeds-s.shtml>*



*Anasazi Beans:
<http://www.zursunbeans.com/beans/>*



Rattlesnake Snap sprout, front yard- corn behind.

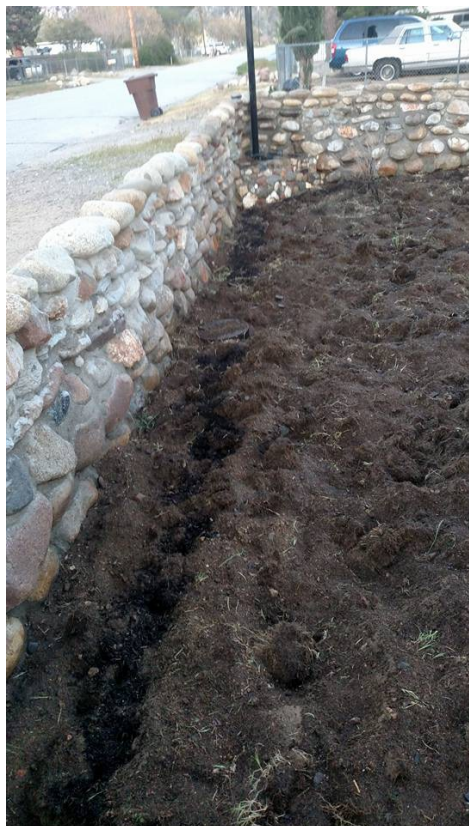


Anasazi Bean sprout, front yard.

They Planted Heirloom *Russian Mammoth* Sunflowers:



Soil conditioner added along edge of wall where Russian Mammoth Sunflowers were planted.



Soil conditioner added along edge of wall where Russian Mammoth Sunflowers were planted.



Photo from Renee's Garden:

<http://www.reneesgarden.com/articles/grow-sunflower.html>

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Photo source:

<http://www.pandpseed.com/Merchant2/graphics/00000001/GSUNFDS.jpg>



Photo by Sara Hill):

http://www.cleveland.com/sunstarcourier/index.ssf/2010/09/reaching_for_the_sun.html

They Also Planted “The 4th Sister”- *Rocky Mountain Bee Plant*:



Referred to as "The 4th Sister" because many tribes plant this next to the 3 Sisters traditionally. Photo source:

http://media.americanmeadows.com/media/content_pages/ami-fall-is-for-wildflowers/rocky-mountain-bee-plant.jpg

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Corn & Beans coming up, front yard.



Front yard; the couple never got the squash planted because they were removed by Sheriffs.

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Photo of cucumbers & Mammoth Sunflowers on 5-27-2016 (after they were ousted from property).

Planted ~10 Peach & ~10 Apricot Trees From Cuttings:



Apricot cuttings given from a man from the Seventh Day Adventist Church where couple was attending.



Apricot cuttings after they'd been prepared to propagate inside the "greenhouse".



Peach tree cuttings from Reverend Jim.

Cutting The Branches *Cleanly* Helps Them *Take Root*:



To cut cleanly, a knife is held against the cutting, & then a rock is slammed down onto the knife.



Slamming the rock down on the knife.



Performing a clean cut.

Preparing The Cuttings *To Take Root:*



Measuring the cuttings so they fit inside the plastic jug, which is filled with about 2 inches of water.



Cuttings in sealed jug with water.

After about 2 weeks, the cuttings will begin sprouting leaves, & white "nubs" will cover each cutting- that means they're ready to plant!

It is important that *every two days* the cap to the jug is loosened to release the gas buildup- *then sealed again*.

Wild Willpower PAC wrote "directions on how to propagate fruit & nut trees from cuttings" at this web address:
<http://www.wildwillpower.org/amazing-resources-for-homesteaders/how-to-propagate-fruit-nut-trees-from-cuttings>

**#OPERATION
FRUIT TREE**

**I will plant
a fruit
tree this
year and
invite five
friends to
do the
same.**

[food is free project.org](http://foodisfreeproject.org)

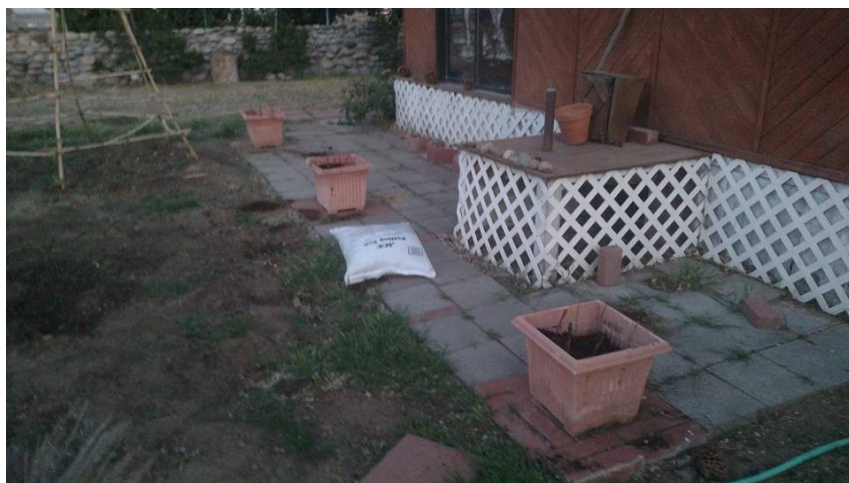


This graphic from "Food Is Free Project" was utilised by Wild Willpower on the website.

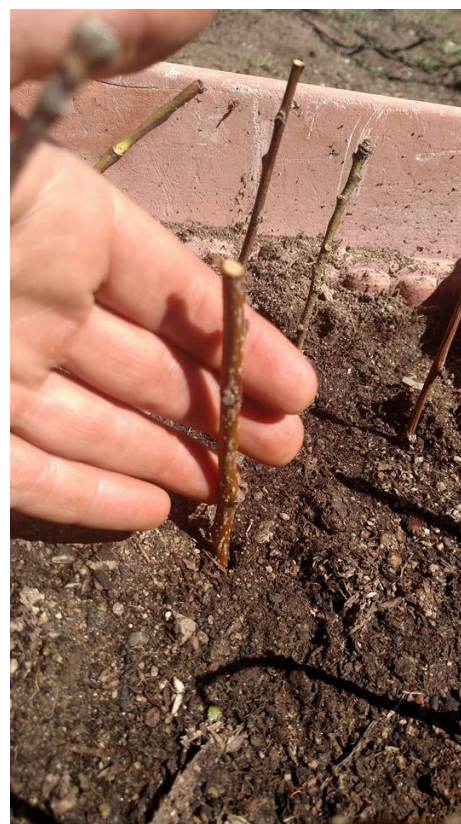
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After 2 weeks they have just been transplanted- these leaves are new growth.



These planters were a gift & work trade from neighbor Mark.



White nubs on cutting indicate they're ready to put in soil.

They *Fixed* A Taxidermy Case, Converted It Into “The Sprouthouse”:



A great gift from neighbors Adam & Renee Forker from when they moved out, one of the glass panes broke almost immediately after they got it.



They purchased this piece of plexiglass from L & M Lumber.



Ms. Wilson looked up "how to cut plexiglass" on Google.

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Got this beautiful work of art fixed.

Another Storm Broke The Other Pane; *Time To Replace...*



This one broke during the next small rainstorm! Used the other half of the plexiglass to fix the window on the rear building, so purchased another hunk of plexiglass from L & M Lumber ~\$90 each.

Pounded Holes Into *Bean & Soup Cans*, Filled Them With Soil:



We'd been saving & washing out cans for just this.



Pounded holes into the cans using a large nail.

They Planted Heirloom *Clemson Spineless* & *Emerald Green Okra* Shrubs:



*Clemson Spineless- photo source:
<http://parkseed.com/clemson-spineless-okra-seeds/p/05195-PK-P1/>*



One of the 12 Okra shrubs that came up & were made to be left at the property.



*Emerald Green Okra- photo source:
<http://www.rareseeds.com/store/vegetables/okra/>*

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There were more plants here at the time the couple was removed from the property, including 12 Okra shrubs which were coming up.

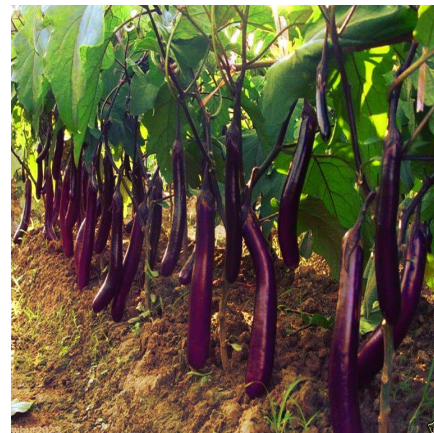
These Were Planted & Left Unwatered After The 11th.



*Heirloom Peppers- 5 colors:
<http://www.groworganic.com/pv-org-pepper-rainbow-bell-mix.html>*



*"Black Beauty" Eggplants:
<http://www.americanmeadows.com/all-american-veggie-flower-kit>*



*"Chinese Long" Eggplants:
<http://www.ebay.com/itm/Black-Beauty-Eggplant-100-thru-1000-seeds-Heirloom-NON-GMO-USA-sustainable-35-/121456532140>
ebay.com/bhp/eggplant-seeds*

And When The Potatoes Came Up:



2-24-2016: The soil tilled & the potatoes on the left.



The tarp helped protect them from the frost; 20 plants came up!

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*"Double Planer Technique"
learned from [HERE](https://www.pinterest.com/pin/335096028503132580/):
<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/335096028503132580/>*



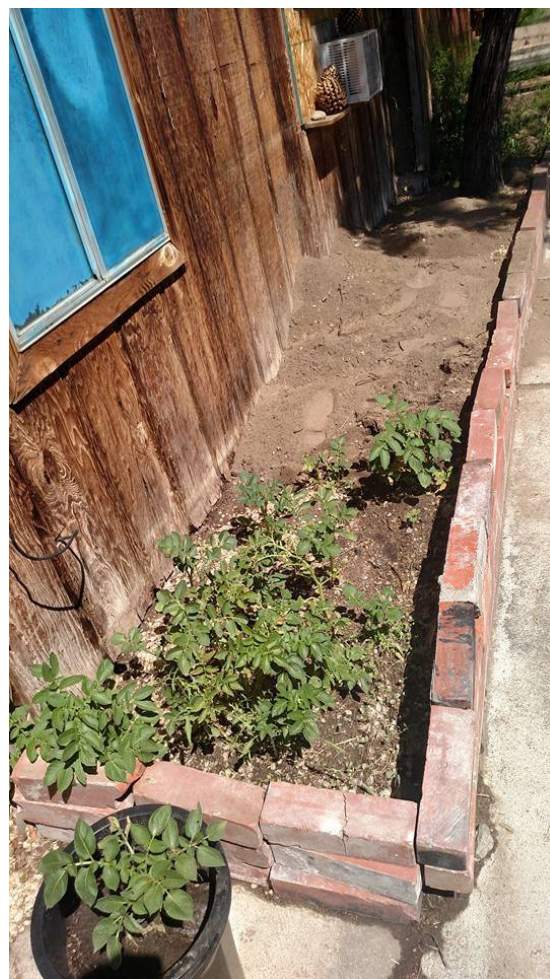
2 planters purchased from L & M Lumber after being prepared.



*The potatoes grew quite
a bit since December!*



After the transplant.



*The couple then added another layer of
bricks to this bed.*

Installed Raised Beds From Re-Purposed, Donated Wood Scraps



Friend & local community member Ms. Laura Walters helping to put in the first raised beds.



Raised beds coming together.



First 3 raised beds after being planted with 2 kinds of asparagus & rainbow heirloom carrots.

Where Did They Get The Soil?



Soil conditioner being added to the sandy soil which carrots prefer.



The couple get G & B Soil Conditioner from L & M Lumber.



About 10 bags of ACE Potting Soil have been used throughout the property.

Both photos *at right* were researched for use to aid campaign on www.WildWillpower.org.

At Right: Mary Washington Green Asparagus in one raised beds, Purple Asparagus in another

Further Right: Heirloom Rainbow Carrots.



Photo Source- Fair use- First Amendment:

<http://whatwouldebettydo.com/2011/06/06/try-something-purple-asparagus/> — in Pleasanton, California.



Photo Source- Fair Use- First Amendment:

<https://www.etsy.com/listing/125298233/rainbow-carrot-mix-seven-fancy-heirlooms>

They Added *Mulch* To Fill *In Between* The Raised Beds



Neighbor Mark unloading mulch to put around raised beds; the couple performed work, & this was given to them as a trade & to support the cause (helping feed the neighborhood).

Using Soil From Between To Fill Beds:



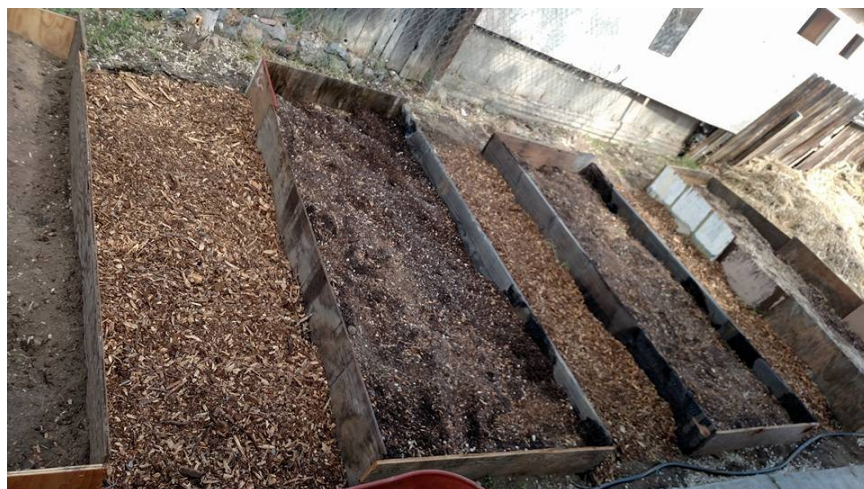
Digging out between the raised beds to fill them up, then cover between with mulch.

Installing A Fifth Raised Bed:



Local permaculture & ethnobotany enthusiast Rick DuVall helping to install a 5th raised bed.

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Edible saprophytic mushrooms such as Candy Caps {Lactarius rubidus} will grow on the mulch through winter; candy Caps are used in flavoring syrup- having a somewhat "cinnamon" flavor.



Mr. Byrd unloading a second load of mulch from Mark's truck.



Added mulch the rest of the way around the raised beds, then hung the chainlink fence seen in earlier photos in order to eventually grow berry-bearing plants up them.

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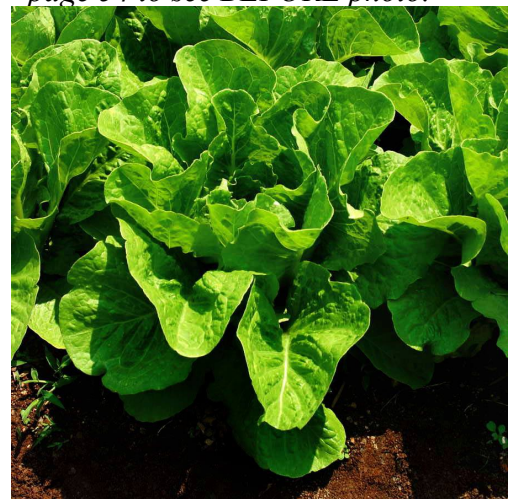
The couple filled this brick planter with more soil to raise up the potatoes.



Other side of the planter cleaned up & filled with soil; the couple stacked the bricks in front where there WERE none AND cut the piece of wood out that was directly in front of the stairs- see page 54 to see BEFORE photo.



*Bibb Lettuce photo from:
<http://www.eatlikenoone.com/harvesting-bibb-lettuce-some-bitter-leaves.htm>*

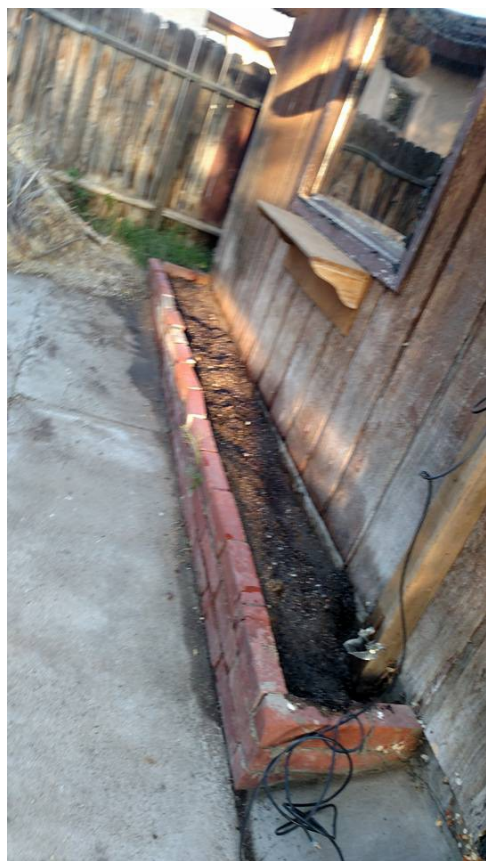


*Jericho Lettuce photo from
<http://parkseed.com/jericho-hybrid-lettuce-seeds/p/05170-PK-P1/>*

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Bibb and Jericho Lettuce were also planted in each of these two planters the couple got from Mark.



Brick planter in front of rear building cleaned, filled with good soil, & planted with Arugula.



*Photo of heirloom Arugula:
<http://www.vanilleverte.com/arugula-mung-bean-beet-and-citrus-salad/>*

They Planted *More Potatoes & Also Yams* Using “The Double-Planter Technique”:



8 more planters prepared...



Purchased purple potatoes from Vons in Lake Isabella.

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Planting Yams...



All these were left on the property when the couple was removed, unwatered.

Besides Bags of Soil and Soil From Between The Raised Beds, The Couple Carried Soil From A Pit They Dug On The West Side of The Property Where They Planned To Build A “Cold Frame”:



4-20-16: Pit being dug on west side of house to build a Cold Frame.



4-24-2016.

Cold Frames Are Good For Cruciferous Vegetables- Cauliflower, Cabbage, Bok Choy, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, etc.:



Photo Source:

<http://www.houzz.com/ideabooks/3439193/list/how-to-start-a-cool-season-vegetable-garden>



Several types of Cauliflower- photo source:

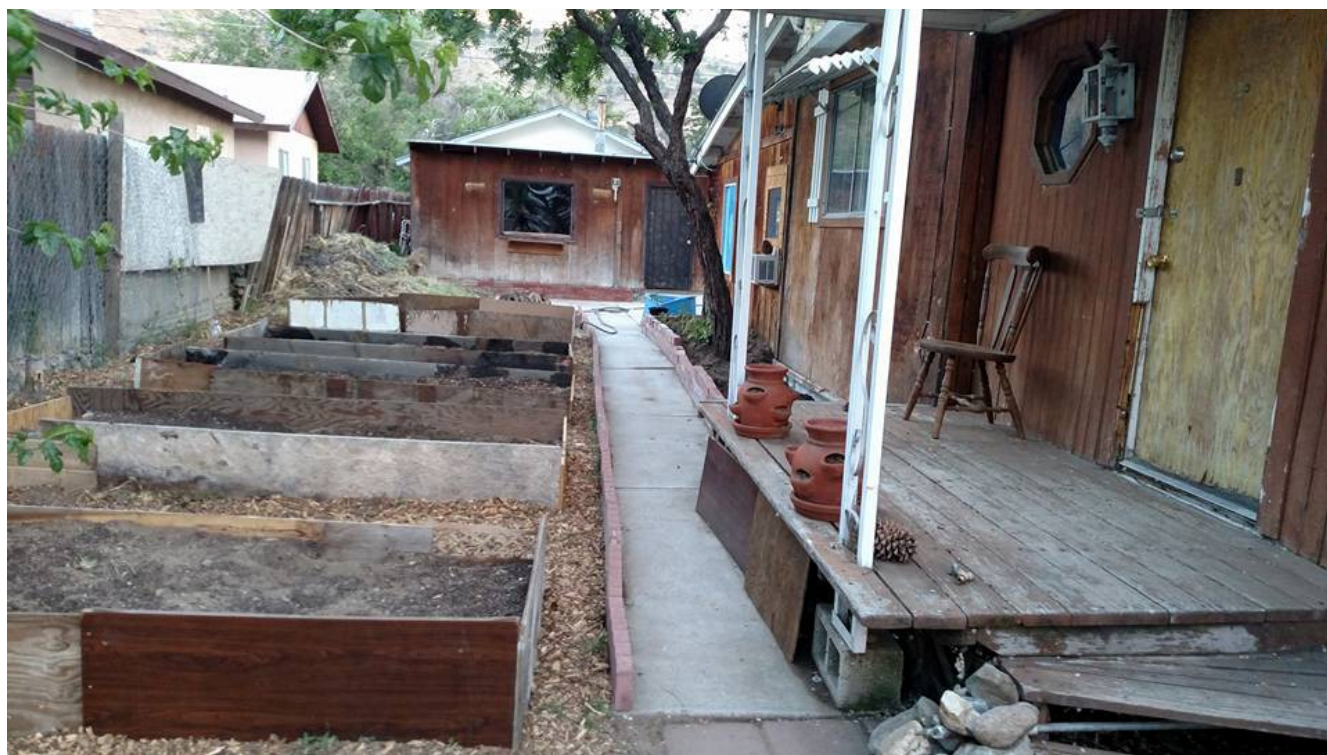
<http://masterofhort.com/tag/vitaverde-cauliflower/>



Heirloom Cabbage- photo source:

<https://lopezislandkitchengardens.wordpress.com/tag/sauteed-collards-and-cabbage/>

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4-24-2016: Added mulch & decorative brick lining along sidewalk. Brick décor from Adam & Renee Forker.



4-25-2016: Wooden cable spool & some pots a gift from Adam & Renee Forker; other pots gifts from Mark.

These Are Planted In The Planters Around The Cable Spool:

Oregano:



Oregano- photo source:
<https://bonnieplants.com/growing/growing-oregano/>



Savory- photo source:
<http://sustainableseedco.com/herb-seed/summer-savory-herb-seed.html>

Dill:



Photo source:
<http://www.edenbrothers.com/store/heirloom-dill-seeds.html>

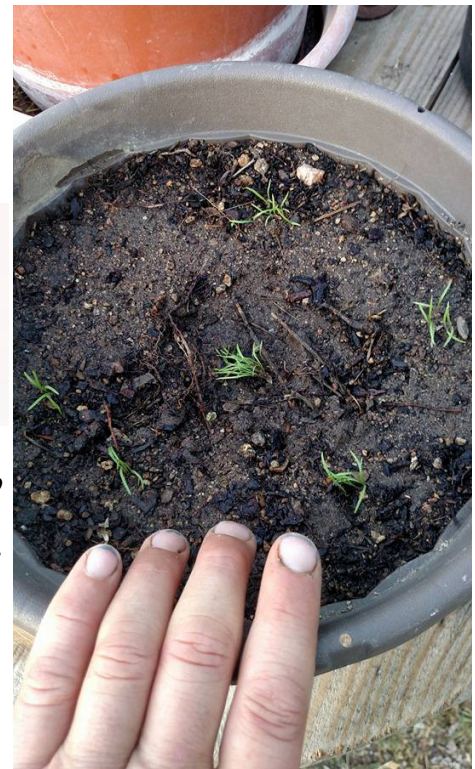
Cilantro & Coriander:



Cilantro- photo source:
<http://herbgardening.com/growingcilantro.htm>

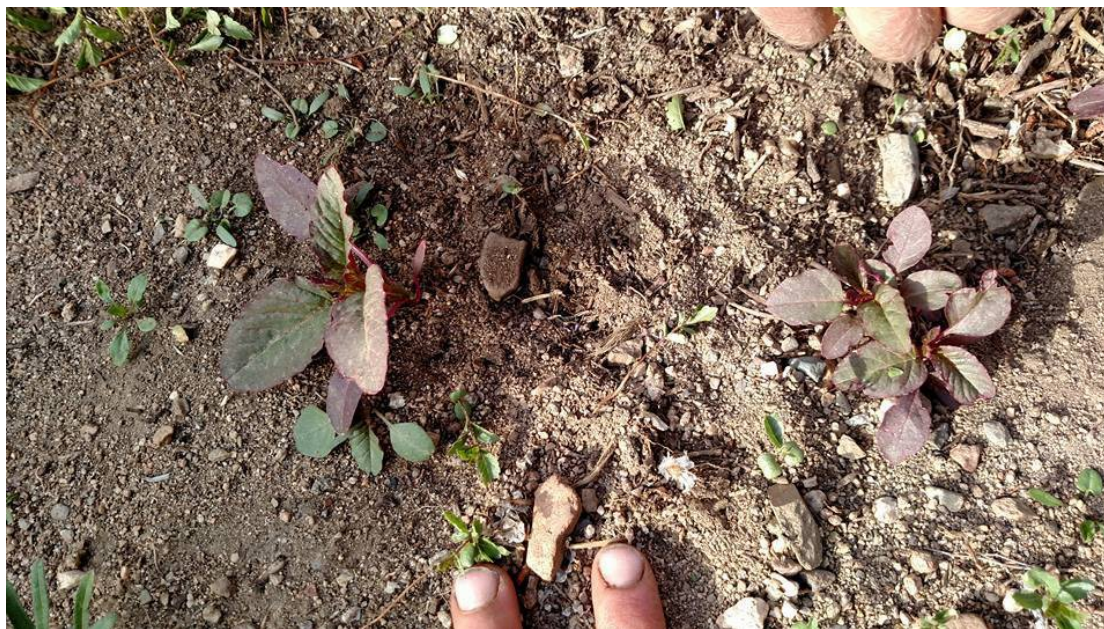


Oregano & Coriander
are the same plant- photo
source:
http://elenaseeds.com/Seeds-Herb-Koryandr-Nektar-Spice-Organic-Russian-Heirloom-Herb-Seed_p_228.html



5-8-2016 Dill coming up.

The Magenta and The Green *Amaranthus* Came Up!



The Red Amaranth just coming up from beneath where it was transplanted to last Autumn (see pages 85 & 86).



The Green Amaranth coming up all over from where it was planted as well..

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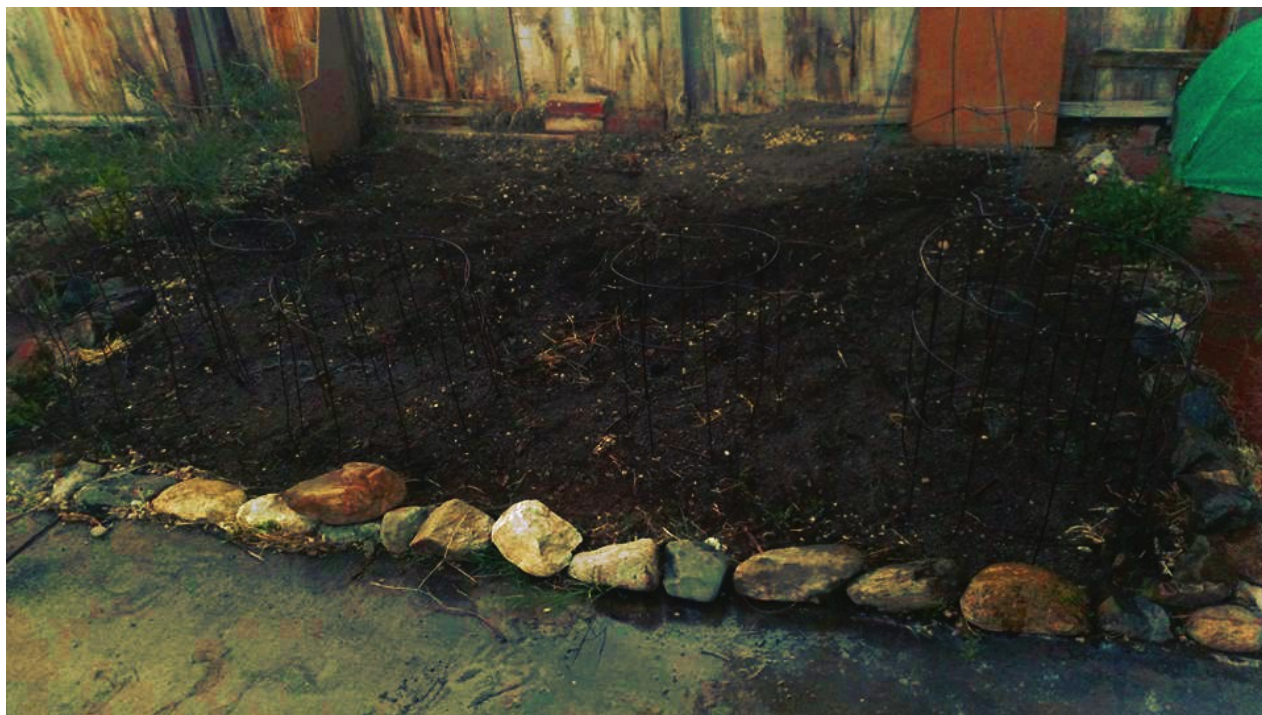


Illustration 1: Green Amaranth in the foreground. Red Amaranth just beyond that, & corn on the other side of the square bricks. Mammoth Sunflowers are just to the left of the Cucumber Teepee.



Green Amaranth on right, corn & beans in middle along with a Zucchini plant- & Magenta Amaranth coming up just behind that.

Planted Tomatoes In Backyard:



These tomato cages (from Mark) were added, then heirloom tomatoes were planted. This is the same spot as on the right side of the middle photo on page 10. Added much potting soil here.



Another type of seed & photo researched by Ms. Wilson- photo source unknown.

Every Day Moving The Projects Forward...



Pine pollen collected from Grey Pines.



Documented Wild Flax for upcoming book.



The couple likes to mix this with water & drink it; they learned about this from Mr. Legan & saw that it is an abundant, tasty, nutritious food source.

The Couple Picked Trash Out Of The Backyard For *Weeks*:



The couple picked small bits of garbage from throughout the entire backyard for approximately 5 full days- 3 trash bags of garbage!



Pulling trash out from the soil in backyard.



"Pirates of The Caribbean" was even in the yard!

A Few Other Things To Mention...



*Mr. Byrd transplanting native Yarrow to the yard-
great for cuts & scrapes & to stop bleeding.*



*This was purchased by Mr. Byrd, & made to be left
on the property.*



*Mr. Byrd purchased this, & it was made to be left on
the property along with teh 4 hoses the couple had
been given.*