

URBAN FOOD INITIATIVES

2020 YEAR AT A GLANCE

Starting with the establishment of a Community Supporting Agriculture (CSA) program in 2010, Denver Botanic Gardens' Urban Food Initiatives have evolved to focus on improving access to fresh, healthy food and educating a wide range of audiences on how to grow, harvest and prepare it. Over the past few years, the Gardens has built partnerships and expanded capacity to positively impact more and more people through food-based initiatives.

In 2020, the effects of COVID-19 exacerbated food insecurity, and the Gardens pivoted to reach more people by working directly with food banks and other organizations to distribute produce grown on multiple Gardens-managed sites. This 2020 Season Overview offers some highlights.



Community Supporting Agriculture (CSA)/Market Garden

Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield Farms grows on 6.5 acres to supply both the CSA subscribers and food donation distributor partners across the metro area.

- Families served by shares weekly: 340
- Produce distributed from 6.5 acres: 42,000 lbs.
- CSA shares donated weekly to families in need and hunger relief organization partners: 20

Urban Food Program

The Gardens operates several gardens in partnership with Denver Housing Authority. Denver Botanic Gardens also grows food at our York Street location and runs a nearby community garden. Nearly 10,000 pounds of produce was distributed to the community from these urban gardens. Produce was distributed as follows:

- Community garden: 941 lbs.
- Mariposa Urban Farm, Denver Housing Authority: 2,710 lbs.
- Sun Valley Farm, Denver Housing Authority: 4,782 lbs.
- Le Potager, Denver Botanic Gardens York Street: 1,163 lbs.
- Home Harvest Garden at Mordecai Children's Garden, York Street: 400 lbs.

Veterans Farm Program

This program helps post-9/11 veterans transition from military careers by providing hands-on training in urban agriculture as well as business skills and management of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

- Graduates: 8
- Educational hours: 200 for each participant and 3,000 total contact hours
- Each participant worked a CSA distribution

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botanicgardens.org/food