



# 2014 Summer Sprout Report

## *Cleveland's Community Gardening Program*



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



A collaboration between The City of Cleveland Department of Community Development and Ohio State University Extension, Cuyahoga County's Urban Agriculture Program.

*Prepared by OSU Extension, Cuyahoga County: January 2015*



# ***Table of Contents***

<i><b>Summer Sprout Community Gardening Program Snapshot</b></i>	<i><b>5</b></i>
<i><b>Introduction</b></i>	<i><b>5</b></i>
<i><b>2014 Program Timeline</b></i>	<i><b>6</b></i>
<i><b>Summer Sprout Gardeners and the Community</b></i>	<i><b>7</b></i>
<i><b>Health Impacts</b></i>	<i><b>8</b></i>
<i><b>Summer Sprout Gardener Demographics</b></i>	<i><b>9</b></i>



# ***2014 Summer Sprout Community Gardening Program Snapshot***

**197**

**Community Gardens**

**3,675**

**Community Gardeners**

**43.32**

**Acres of Garden Area**

**13.67**

**Acres of Production Space**

**29,990**

**Pounds of Produce Donated**

## **Introduction**

Cleveland's Community Gardening Program, Summer Sprout, has been in existence since 1976. It is a partnership between the City of Cleveland and Ohio State University Extension, Cuyahoga County (OSUECC). Cleveland has historically supported community gardens through Summer Sprout by providing soil testing, seeds, starter plants, soil amendments, tilling services, and raised bed materials. OSUECC began supporting community gardens in Cleveland in 1977 through its Urban Community Gardening Program. This program was funded by the USDA through the early 1990's to provide education and technical assistance to community gardens. OSUECC manages the Summer Sprout Program today and is able to provide gardens with the a fore mentioned resources. OSUECC works with community partners, including the City of Cleveland Land Bank, to develop land tenureship for garden sites. In 2014 Summer Sprout supported 23 new community gardens in the City of Cleveland, adding to the 174 that returned from the 2013 growing season. Community gardens in Cleveland are diverse: neighborhood clubs, schools, faith-based groups, non-profit agencies, and many others are active in Summer Sprout.



**Burning River Community Garden**

# ***2014 Summer Sprout Community Gardening Program Snapshot***

## **2014 Program Timeline**

2014 Summer Sprout Applications for new gardens were made available from July through September of 2013. Newly enrolled gardens received acceptance letters by mid-October. Soil tests were taken in November and sent to the University of Massachusetts soil lab to test for lead (Pb) levels, pH, and nutrient levels. Meetings were held in November with new gardeners to discuss the Summer Sprout Program and how it would support their projects. Renewal forms were sent to existing gardens for the 2014 season in the middle of November and were due back to OSU Extension by the middle of December. This form requested updated contact information, garden information, and service and materials expectations for 2014.

The Annual Garden Leader Kickoff was held on March 29, 2014 at the Slovenian National Home and provided gardeners with information regarding plant and seed distribution, hydrant permits, tilling and allowed for networking opportunities as well as a presentation from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) about the Cleveland High Tunnel Initiative . This year 14,007 packets of vegetable, herb, and flower seed were distributed to gardeners. In April 71 bare root fruit trees and some small fruit plants (blackberries, raspberries, and strawberries) were distributed to gardeners at the Stanard Farm.

Starting in May soil and leaf humus (totaling 336 and 71 cubic yards, respectively) were delivered to 66 Summer Sprout sites. 12 gardens received lumber for raised beds. 35 gardens received tilling services through the program. Plant distribution occurred at Stanard Farm from May 15th-17th. 54,900 starter plants (tomatoes, peppers, collard greens, cabbage, and eggplant) were passed out to gardeners.

June through September, OSUE staff conducted site visits at a majority of the program's 197 community garden sites throughout the city. Staff were able to troubleshoot problems, give recommendations, and

suggest community resources that were available to gardens, including grant opportunities and local community development corporations. During site visits staff also took note of what fruits and vegetables were growing on site.

The Summer Sprout Program Application for new gardens for the 2015 growing season was made available during the month of September of 2014. Also during the month of September season extension materials were distributed. A total of 96.75 pounds of cover crop seed, 1917 feet of row cover, and 297 row cover hoops were distributed to 27 gardens



2014 Garden Leader Kick-off

# ***2014 Summer Sprout Community Gardening Program Snapshot***

## **Summer Sprout Gardeners and the Community**

OSU Extension, Cuyahoga County supports urban agriculture by providing diverse workshops and training programs. Below is a brief description of those programs and how Summer Sprout gardeners engaged with them.

### ***Urban Agriculture Workshops***

In 2014 OSU Extension, Cuyahoga County held 48 workshops focusing on various urban agriculture topics around the county. Some topics covered include: sharing the garden harvest, composting basics, fruit tree planting and pruning, garden planning and spacing, keeping chickens, high tunnels, wildlife management, season extension, and vermicomposting. At least 86 *unique* Summer Sprout gardeners participated in at least one workshop in 2014. Summer Sprout gardener attendance totaled at least 144 out of the 514 workshop participants for the entire season.

### ***Dig-In! Community Gardener Training Program***

12 Summer Sprout gardeners participated in this eight week training program which met once weekly for 2.5 hours in January through March of 2014. Participants learned how to locate and assess sites, organize a group of gardeners, plan and design a garden, produce vegetables and fruit, incorporate integrated pest management practices, identify community resources, and increase neighborhood access to fresh produce. Gardeners had opportunities to network and gain gardening skills and confidence.

### ***Master Gardener Mentor Volunteers***

Master Gardener Volunteers complete a vigorous horticulture training program and must complete volunteer and continuing education hours. 21 volunteers served as mentors to 34 Summer Sprout gardens in 2014. The role of volunteers was to meet with gardeners, troubleshoot problems, help with planning, and be a means of support.



**Green Acres Community Garden**

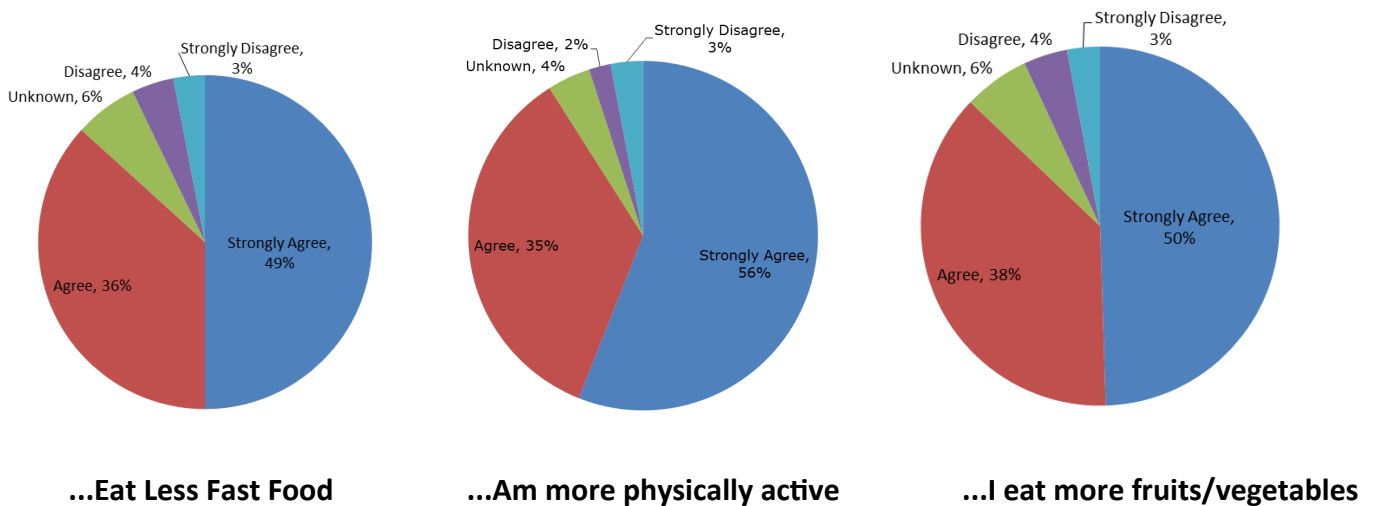


# 2014 Summer Sprout Community Gardening Program Snapshot

## Health Impacts

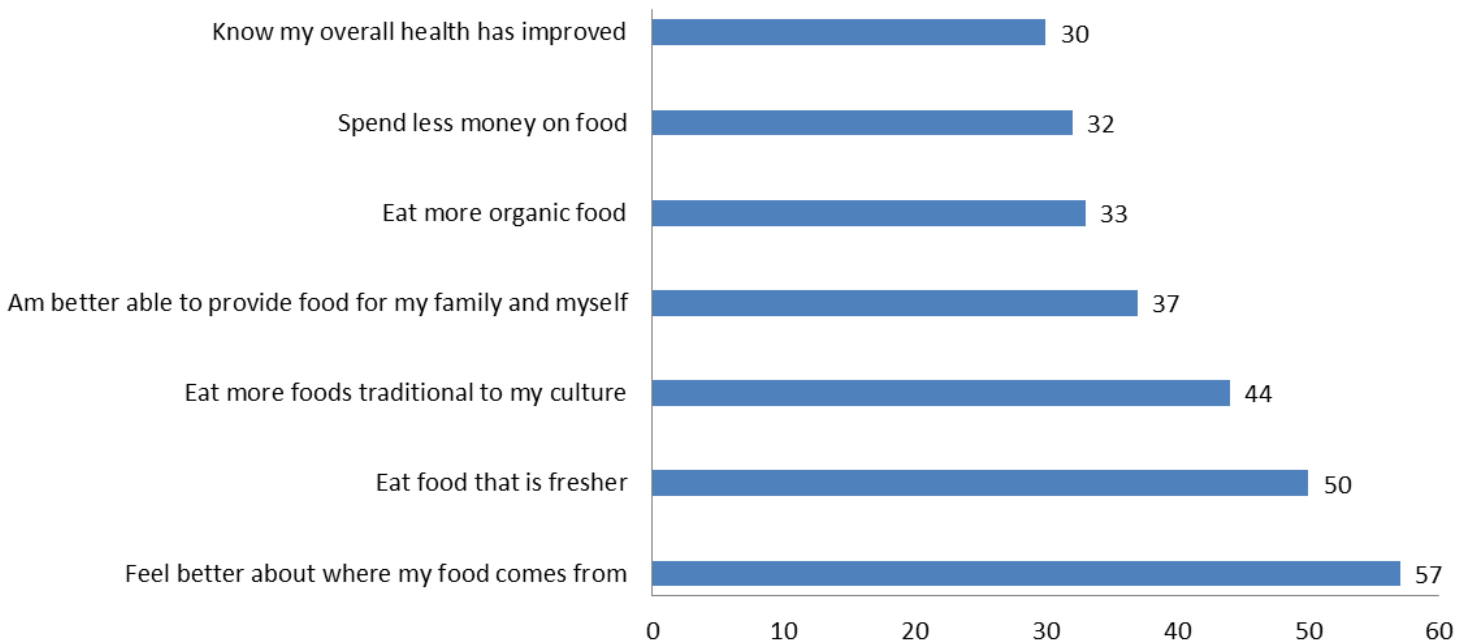
In the 2015 Renewal Form we asked garden leaders a series of questions regarding how working in the community garden impacts their health. Eighty five percent of garden leaders responded to the survey.

### Because I work in the garden, I...



The graph below shows the percentage of participants who **STRONGLY AGREE** with the following statements.

### Because I work in the garden, I...





# 2014 Summer Sprout Community Gardening Program Snapshot

## Summer Sprout Gardener Demographics

Summer Sprout Gardeners Leaders were asked to voluntarily fill out a demographic survey on the annual renewal form. The charts below represent information collected from the 166 gardens that responded to the demographic survey for 2014.

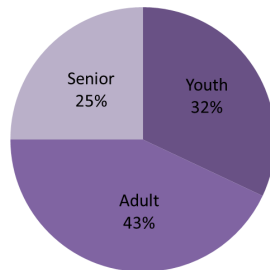
### Age

0-18 years old: *Youth*

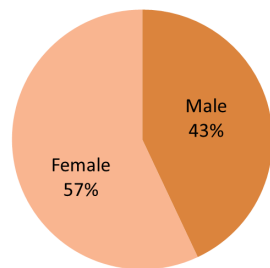
19-60 years old: *Adults*

61+ years old: *Seniors*

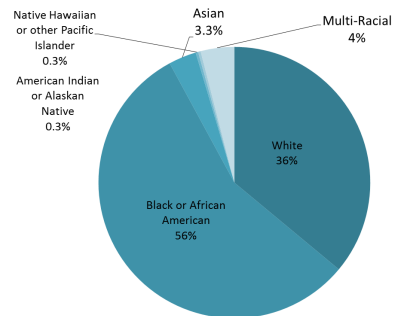
### Summer Sprout Gardeners



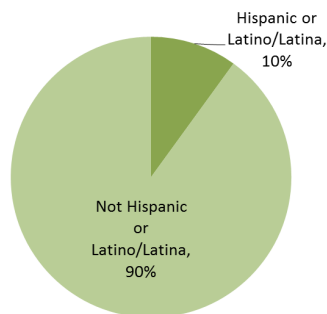
### Gender



### Race



### Ethnicity



### Summer Sprout Garden Leaders

