



Bountiful Harvests! Giant cucumbers, 750g broccoli heads, abundant beets, malanga, and papa chiricana roots!

Feb 2021





Stunningly beautiful, nutritious, and delicious, these **edible flowers** add color and vibrance to our salads and desserts! (Clockwise from right)
Stachytarpheta, San Miguel, and three different hibiscus flowers!



Feb 2021





**Many new
helpers in
February!**
Ed, Mia,
Victor, Lasse,
David,
Asherah,
Lovorka, and
Mary G!



Feb 2021





**And our
wonderful
Yogi and
Volunteer
team!**





Focused and Blissful Morning Routines!

Feb 2021





Sergio and Bryan, have been working miracles on so many projects! Scallion planting, cucumber care, microOrganism application, clearing a new spined palmito trash site, reworking and improving planting beds in Svarga (just to name a few), and Bryan even brought us some of the Ed's Reds tomatoes he is growing on his farm, for us to save seeds from!

Feb 2021



We applied what we've been learning about **tomato trellising** to this new outdoor patch in Svarga. We began with a structure above the plants in order to tie them upwards for initial support. Then we added a "wing" for the plants to rest upon once they've outgrown the height of the trellis. The intention is a lower maintenance trellis that the tomatoes can grow on with less string, yet still be easy to harvest.



**Super
healthy
cucumber
patch!**

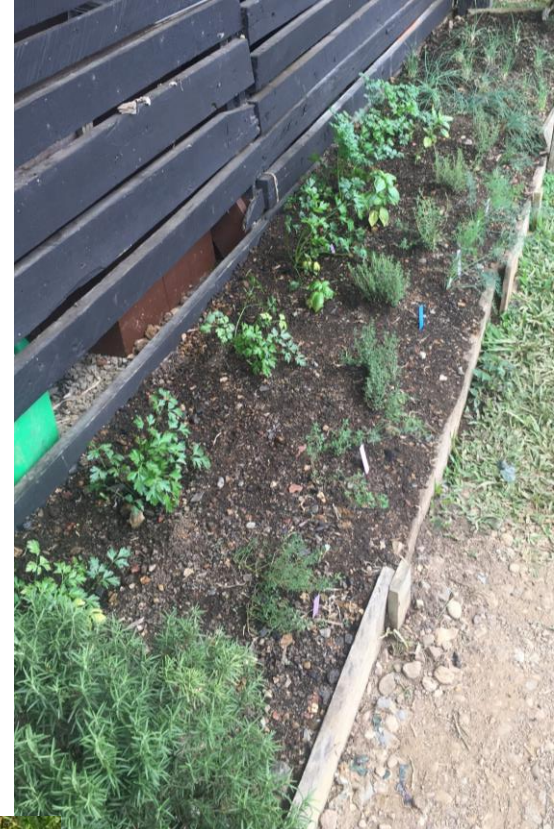
Feb 2021



We grew several varieties of cucumbers that we saved seeds from last year and found that they were mis-labeled. Now we know which are which, and they are all beginning to produce incredibly! We look forward to a bumper crop over the next month!



Our successful **pea trellis** using the “strings” from a disassembled sack to make a webbed “ladder” for the fine pea tendrils to grab onto as they climb tall and straight. We also applied the “wing” design!



Very promising **cabbage patches**, a lovely outdoor **aloe** planting project, and a healthy summer **herb garden** (rosemary, parsley, thyme, basil, and dill)!



Culantro planted outdoors in Svarga grows very well but is quite susceptible to the (unseasonable) heavy rains. A bumper **vainica patch!** Interesting observation, the **thyme** plant **dropped roots** from an outreaching stem, much like oregano! Our **basil** plant set aside **for seed saving** got chewed on at the base of the stem and didn't make it!

Feb 2021





We did a **soil test** on 5 types of soil (mixed 50/50 with topsoil we purchased from Claudio), in which we seeded our Ashram BG 2020 lettuce.

Observations:

- 1) Bhumishaya compost – largest healthiest plants, few weeds
- 2) Rolo compost – second largest plants, many wild weeds
- 3) Worm Compost (Rama) – healthy plants, the soil drained very quickly, full of papaya/tomatoes/ seeds from the kitchen scraps
- 4) Bokashi #14 – very rich/“hot,” intoxicated the plants, no weeds
- 5) Compost from behind the GH – also very rich/“hot,” intoxicated the plants, no weeds



Feb 2021



Creature Feature!

Feb 2021





Many Challenges continue!

Feb 2021



Respect for the Insect!





Spinach seed saving harbored a fit environment for **flea beetles** which jumped over to the next bed of lettuces and caused damage.

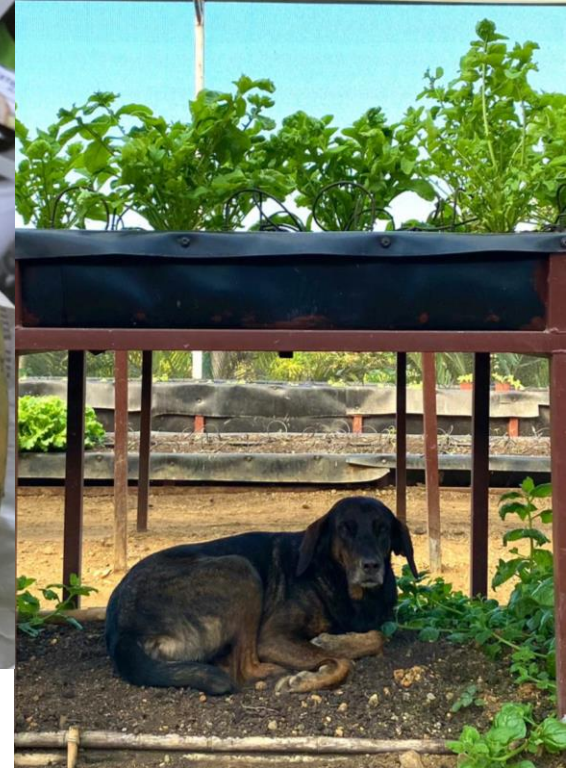
Bok Choi seed saving started out promising, but the plants got a **tip fungus** and some **rotted** at the **stem**.

Mustard microgreens have been germinating but then **damping off** before harvest.



The **papayas** that we had wrapped in newspaper ripened slowly, but evenly. The flavor was quite “light.” A new strategy of leaving them on the tree wrapped in plastic will hopefully achieve a more mature flavor!

Roy, our Ashram gardener, admiring the blooming **native roses!**



And **Yama**, our four-legged greenhouse helper, releasing *prana* into the spinach bed. And returning from a forest jaunt, like a wild teenager, with a new punky hair style!



Feb 2021



**Tremendous
Beauty!**

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