



Glorious Harvests!
perennial and
lettuce Salads,
Biriba, brilliant
Radishes, huge
Kale, Malanga
roots, Bok Choi,
and more
marvelous
Eggplants!

May 2021





May 2021



Mushroom adventures!
Hamid brought mycelia for pink and blue oyster mushrooms. He teamed up with Ajata and they cut/pasteurized hay, mixed in used coffee grounds and the mycelia, and hung the buckets covered in black plastic. About a week later they took off the black plastic and then after another week or so... the first flush!!





The mushroom team tried two main substrates. One had sawdust and oat bran. The other, hay and used coffee grounds. The results:

- Sawdust/Oat Bran w/ Pink oyster mycelia produced 1.5 flushes
- Hay/Coffee Grounds w/ Pink oyster produced 4 flushes
- Hay/Coffee Grounds w/ Blue oyster produced 3 flushes



May 2021



Ajata continued developing the **pea trellis design**

We planted the peas under the trellis sections, and they began to grab hold and pull their way upward!

May 2021



He added in smaller branches, including the small leaf stems, to make a grid for the pea tendrils to climb on as they grow!





Successes: Broccoli hijos (vegetative propagation) nearly 100% strike rate!
And an abundant sweet corn harvest!
Around 100 ears, plus some saved for seed!



May 2021



A interesting anomaly,
tassel and
ear in one!

Healthy beginnings!



May 2021

We continue with several experiments to see what crops will do well for us in our ever-changing and ever-humid micro-climate. It's always challenging to grow our own food here at 1100 meters in the cloud forest, and especially as we transition into the rainier months.



Projects and Daily Routines:
Sergio on the daily watering, a beautiful set of prayer flags were found, cleaned up, and hung in Al-Kauthar, Kalki stopping by with the morning biriba harvest, processing sunflower seeds, sacking up and delivering a sawdust mountain, and the success of the next generation of Natsufushinari cucumber seeds!





**Seed Saving
Successes!**



**Arugula,
Purple
Corn,
Ayotes...**



**Tomatillo, 3
varieties of
Cucumber...**



May 2021

**Culantro and
Mizuna!**





And seed saving challenges!
 Caterpillars found their way into some of the seed saving eggplants, but they shared and left us some mature seeds!

May 2021



And if we left them even a day extra, ants started eating the drying lettuce seeds in the solar dryer!

Warm, wet conditions cause mildew to cover the lettuce seed pods...



Our friend Alicia, sent us 9 varieties of **heirloom green bean seeds** to test. We will reproduce those that do well in our climate.



May 2021

We are also saving the next generation of seeds from our Ashram 2017-2018 green bean seed...



We also planted them for production which gave us a **bumper crop!** The plants grew so large we came up with a simple **bamboo and string "fence"** to keep them contained within the bed!



Challenges:

Weeds, enjoying the increased rain are growing rapidly. Luckily everyone on the team has been working hard to keep up!



A round of sunflower microgreens struggled to germinate, flea beetles, aphids, and caterpillars continue...





Cockroach populations have increased again and so has their damage.

May 2021

We have been combating them in conventional methods in workspaces and with handpicking in the growing soils.





More challenges:
The high humidity and low sunlight hours makes growing herbs more difficult. We've stopped seeding basil and parsley for the wet season. May 2021



We planted the last round of eggplants for the year, even though they were stunted. Let's see how they do...



Many types of mildew, mold, and fungus start to become more prolific. This makes it especially important to keep on top of our bed/plant care routines.



We are still finding some arugula plants with rotted out roots. Perhaps caused by insect damage.





Inspired by several **volunteer tomato patches** growing out of the compost used to feed the papaya trees, we planted several outdoor tomato patches. The timing is a bit off though, since the compost with the tomato seeds was applied in December/January



The **outdoor pea vine** grew well, but the fruits ended up with strange deformities and fungal growth.



A newly planted scallion bed, **needed some drainage work.** The heavy rains washed straight through the bed!





Outdoor Cabbages:
Planting 10 per week, rotating 4 different varieties. There was a range even among the plants from each week, the Bronco and



Summer/Autumn varieties seemed most well suited for the outdoor conditions.

Still having some root rot issues...

And a few extra broccolis that we planted outside, as a trial, produced heads!



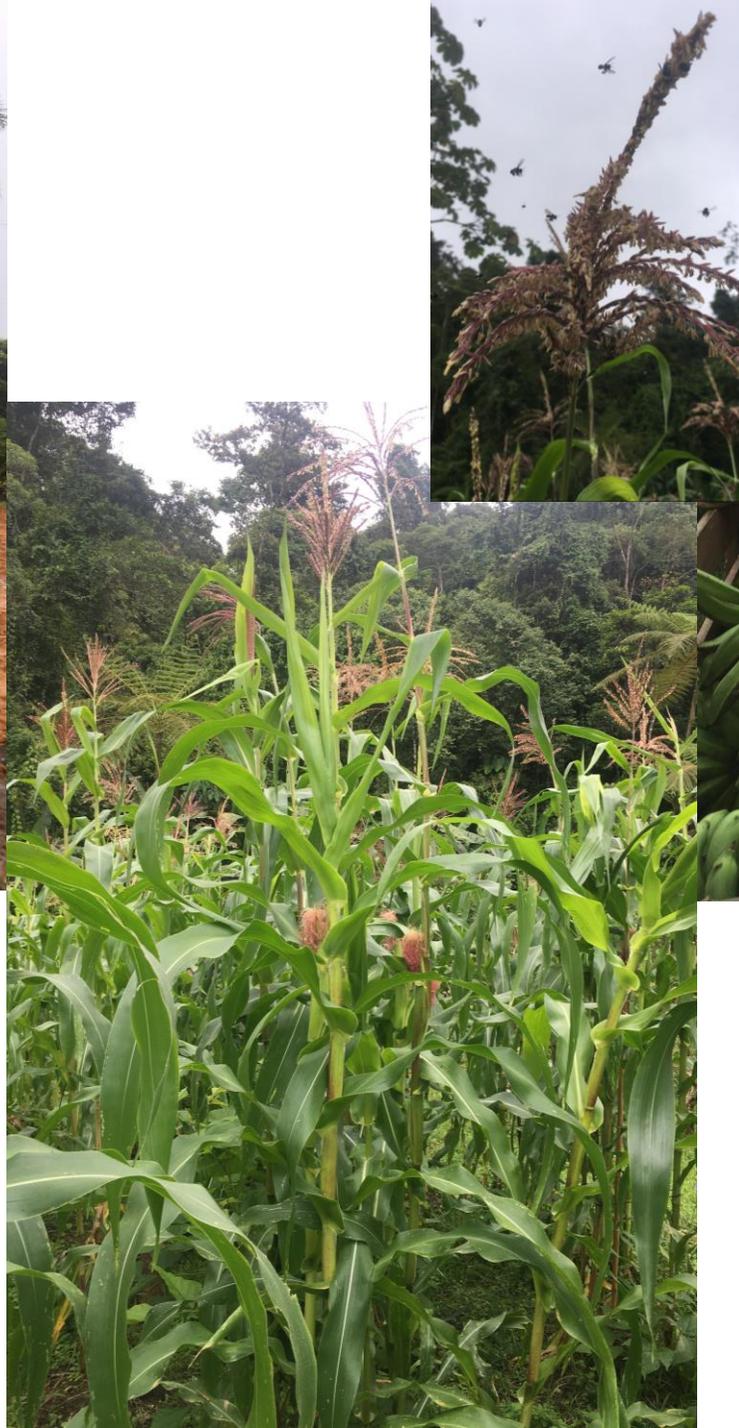
May 2021



Fredy's land-moving team began the **leveling work** for our **3rd Greenhouse** at Jagadamba Malaya!

Successful corn crop in the Cuatro Diosas area (hundreds of stingless bees pollinating the corn)!

May 2021



Bryan and Didier on the weekly banana harvest. This month was **Dider's final month** with us. He had been with us for many many years! We are very grateful for all of his service!



We are ready to receive
our first delivery of
“Fredy soil!”

May 2021

The land-moving company also offered **topsoil for sale** by the dump truck load. We did an initial soil test on the samples of the two types of soil they offered. We planted our Ash 2021 BG lettuce seeds to see how the soil performed. Both did well, the lighter colored soil had quite a bit of weed seeds in it and several large rocks.





Creature Feature!



May 2021





**Always Amazing Shapes
and Colors!**

May 2021

