



Bountiful Harvests (1)

Aug 2021





Bountiful Harvests (2)

Aug
2021



We started doing the first plantings in the new Greenhouse that receive the name **Jagadamba Kanyaka!** Camote, corn, lettuce, beets, chile dulce, papaya, and broccoli were some of the first crops planted!

We are trying out a delivery method of the seedlings from Al-Kauthar. We set them on the roadside and make use of the arrival of the Ganeshapur team in the mornings to pick up the plants. So far so good!



We haven't set the irrigation lines yet, so we made a bamboo jig to give us a template of where we predict the driplines will go.



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The soil mix in Jagadamba Kanyaka (JK) is a blend of several excellent materials: Bhumishaya compost, sand, cal, purchased topsoil, soil from the beds that were in the previous structure (JM), Bokashi, and a lot of Love!

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Now under cover of the hard polycarbonate roof, the **planting beds** can be built. The hard dry clay was broken up by pickaxe. The beds were carefully measured and marked out with string...



...covered with a layer of biodegradable materials, and finally topped by a cap of freshly mixed soil!



A photo journey of our **banana baby's growth** through the month! Aug 2021





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Our first attempt at growing **winged beans** indoors! We had two plants per bag, spaced at every 60cm, alternating sides. Then we prepared bamboo posts with their branches intact to serve as a support as the vine grows and gets loaded with beans! We also interplanted a round of lettuces to take advantage of the space while the beans start to climb!



The sugar snap **peas finished** up on the new **trellis**. So, we **cleaned** it up and planted some Natsufushinari **cucumbers** from the seeds we collected earlier this year! Bryan is wrapping up the **vainica “fence”** we use to support the beans. He also **cleaned the bed and prepared it** for the next cultivar (bottom right). And below is a shot of our **GH compost** that has been breaking down for over a year now!



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A soil test on the **GH compost** (after 15 months) is still intoxicating the lettuce seedlings. Below left is a healthy seedling from the control group, and (right) an intoxicated seedling



The **Arunachala chile dulce** has been affected by twisting leaves, dry branches, and stunted growing tips.



with just 10% of the compost mixed into the soil. We will be selective in our application of this strong fertilizer.



(Above right) The next round of seedlings are healthy but growing rounded leaves with a truncated tip.



- Nickel
- Wyatt
- Jade
- Borsalino
- Antigua
- Provider
- Blue Lake Bush
- Compass
- Hickok



The heirloom vainica seed experiment (1) is coming to fruition! We've started to collect dried beans from all 9 varieties!



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Nickel
(Filet)
(Territorial Seed Co.)
Ash 2021



Jade
(Terr.)
Ash 2021



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Wyatt
(Terr.)
Ash 2021



The Heirloom Vainica Seed Experiment (2)

Borsalino
(Filet)
(Terr.)
Ash 2021



Blue Lake Bush
- Climber - (Terr.)
Ash 2021

Ash 2021



Antigua
(Terr.)
Ash 2021



Hickok
(Territorial)
Ash 2021



Compass
(Filet)
(Terr.)
Ash 2021



Each variety was unique and beautiful! We made notes during seeding, growth, and harvest; keeping track size, color, taste, health, etc.



Provider
(Terr.) (red)
Ash 2021



Rats' Tail!
Radish Col
(B.C.)
Ash 2021



We started harvesting the **seeds** from our experimental **Radish** variety that abundantly produced gourmet **Pods!**



Some of the pods began getting covered by a type of furry fungal growth, and (above) a new **tomato** variety recommended for its resistance to wet weather, was left a day too long in the fermentation process that removes the gel coating around the seeds (done for seed saving). The seeds that germinated were put in pots and grew into seedlings, gifted to households...

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Challenges (1):

The usual suspects: tuta absoluta, caterpillars, aphids, fungus,



Flea beetles, whiteflies, and more.



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Challenges (2): The road has become too slippery to enter with the truck to do the weekly compost barrel change. It will be closed until drier weather. Improvements to this road have been scheduled for the dry season. Several different kinds of leaf damage are always keeping us on our toes.

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Challenges (3):
 The wires connecting the sides of Bed #2 broke again. Insects are making powder out of the bamboo trellises.



The first room of the solar dryer flooded, which we attributed to the drainage being full of grass and mud. And the forest eco toilet has its sink in a puddle of mud (far left)!

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The teams are **hard at work** at daily tasks; planting, transplanting, weeding, digging drainages, and mixing soil! **Domingo**, our newest addition to the Ag team, has been doing great work!

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**Creature
Feature!**



**Aug
2021**





Beautiful **berries**, **camote** bouncing back from the wild turkey snacking, the uncertain **eggplants** have really made a strong comeback and begun to produce large healthy fruits, plus indoor and outdoor **corn** patches!



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Keeping up on our outdoor growing spaces!

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In preparation for the rainier months of the year, we've spent time cleaning and reinforcing the drainages in Svarga. We also flattened and levelled a nice new area for dumping grass and soil from these cleanups. This allows us to leave these resources to break down and improve the soil. The katuk patch we pruned last month has bounced back with gusto! Lots of healthy young leaves for our perennial salad mix!





When a plant is finished, we are always curious, **what is happening with the roots?** There is so much information to be found there. Sometimes there is rhizomatic growth, healthy branching root structures, water-logged/rotting roots, or even nodules (potentially from nematodes). We are constantly observing and learning!

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Beauty!

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