



Divine Nature

Sept 2021





Bountiful Harvests!
 Black Beauty Eggplants,
 Yacon and Camote roots, chives galore, palm flowers and pejibaye, and seeds/tender pods from the radishes continue.



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Interesting: (Clockwise from right) Volunteer *Macrocybe titans* mushrooms popping up for us to eat! The cacao beans beginning to ferment (right) and then 10 days later (left), ready for the next steps. And a wild tomato plant way out in Anaban, producing ripe Ed's Reds in the middle of the rainy season!





Interesting (2): (clockwise from left) A “wild” arugula variety marked for seed saving. Sergio peeling a giant palmito heart. The total harvest of vainica seeds from all the new heirloom varieties.



The weekly almasigos from the feria looking perfect this week. And the beautiful Black Beauty eggplants keep on coming!



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The southern corner of Al-Kauthar was getting heavily shaded by ornamental bananas and pioneer trees. We plan to open up some light.



Massive banana (and plantain) harvests!

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This month, we welcomed **David**, our newest volunteer! He has been a valuable addition to the team and is exploring tasks such as; preparing soil, repairing growing beds, and planting!





It takes a lot of work to stay on top of our **outdoor growing spaces**, especially with water-loving weeds enjoying the rainy season!



Constant weeding, loosening the compacted/sticky soil, and improving/maintaining drainages!

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The cucumber patch is growing amazingly well! Very healthy vines promise to produce a great crop!





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The **winged beans** have grown quickly and are putting on flowers and the first fruits! **Herbs** like parsley and thyme have surprised us this year. With more regular care and an ideal spot to grow, they have continued later into the year than every before!





Seedlings from the new tomato variety, 60% germination on the radish seeds and 80% on the parsnip seeds we've been collecting. A plethora of spinach seedlings popped up out of soil from bed 25 where we collected seeds earlier this year.

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And our **Mielequilla banana baby** continues to grow! Beautiful colors emerging on the leaves!





Jagadamba Kanyaka: Quadrants 1 and 2 fully planted and equipped with irrigation lines. We are using the standard drip tapes with holes at every 20cm. Quadrant 3 has all the beds made, ready for irrigation and planting, and Quadrant 4 ready to begin making beds.

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Eggplant fertilization test: (left to right) 4 plants with Bokashi, 4 plants with GH compost, and 3 control plants without addition.



Greenhouse saved sweet corn seeds are growing well so far! The tassel makes a good contact point for this golden orb spider web. And some artistic beauty at sunrise.

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Challenges (1):

Some arugula plants are having a reaction to something, scarring on the kale, tomatillo plants ending their season, beet stayed in the ground a bit too long, an eggplant covered in powdery mold, and “rusting” on the green beans.





Challenges (2):

Flea beetles, aphid population boom (which attracted more ants), and several small caterpillar species.



Several of the growing tips on the cucumber vine had these bright green caterpillars, but some quick hand picking, in combo with BT spray, eliminated the problem!





Challenges (3):
(clockwise from left)
Ants built their nest around the base of this eggplant, and despite daily scattering continued to return. Eventually they left the stem quite damaged.
Outdoor scallions are more susceptible to rotting after harvest in the wetter months. The **outdoor chile dulce** plants have ranged from not making it (above) to doing fairly well (below). And the **camote** in the papaya bed bounced back from the initial pajuila attacks.



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We continued the project of improving the drainage around the sink for the **GH bathroom** and added some rocks as the final touch!

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Creature...

...Feature

