



In late March, after a hard frost, we were finally able to plant the ollas, seed our containers, and fill the buckets' reservoirs and the ollas with water. It was time for our spring crops to grow!



On April 30, you could see:

- snow peas, carrots and nasturtium in the green pots,
- swiss chard, bok choy and alyssum in the red pots, and
- swiss chard and carrots in the white double buckets.

They got a chance to prosper before being hit by summer heat and needing to make room for summer crops!

At mid May, we built the framework for growing pole beans in pots 3 & 4 and, once the bok choy was harvested, we seeded our beans.



Then in early June, we trimmed the allysum back, transplanted an eggplant and a marigold, and reseeded the bean skips.



After harvesting the carrots and peas in pots 1 & 2, we transplanted tomatoes and seeded basil. We kept the nasturtium already established in these pots.



As of early June, we had left the double buckets alone. The carrots were growing nicely, and the swiss chard continued to be productive.

In **early July**, we replaced sick eggplants with peppers in pots 3 & 4. By **mid-month**, we harvested the last of the carrots and swiss chard from the double buckets, and we planted bush beans in their place.



We enjoyed seeing our summer crops prosper.



By **early September**, the pole beans were no longer content with their assigned trellis and they reached out to the adjacent display structure for support.



Our bush beans started to fruit, and were happy next to the flowering garlic chives. They will produce for a while yet.



We have removed the tomato and pepper plants. We will dig up the ollas before planting any fall crop. Whether we plant a fall or winter crop at all remains undecided as of **mid-September**.

HOW WELL DID THE DIFFERENT IRRIGATION APPROACHES WORK?

We were not in a position to conduct a formal study, but we made interesting observations.

Olla vs non-olla pot: When pulling the tomato plants from pots 1 & 2, we noticed that the plant with an olla had longer roots.



*plant at left with olla
plant at right without olla*

Similarly, the root system for the pepper plant with the olla was stronger than the other one.



This anecdotal observation is consistent with the literature on sub-irrigation methods.

Sub-irrigation via wicking: Plants in the white buckets at the OVG as well as white buckets at the Master Gardener’s home produced nicely and consistently with all crops.

The only point of comparison we have is potatoes planted in a tub without sub-irrigation (yellow bin) and a (white) double bucket, At the Master Gardener’s home. The (red) potatoes harvested from the double bucket were significantly larger.



Above: potatoes



A variety of crop can grow in such containers.



At right: potatoes, pepper and eggplant