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CCE Monroe County Horticulture Program Update
September 2025

Program Highlights

- **Master Gardeners**
 - Master Gardeners are back in full swing with our Rustlers Programs. We are securing plants for our annual plant sale in June 2026 as well as our Blocks in Bloom program.
 - Ashly recently attended the International Master Gardener Conference.
 - Master Gardener program hosted a Blocks in Bloom VIP tour for the Master Gardeners to showcase the work that we are doing within the City of Rochester.
- **Natural Resources**
 - Andrea is working with 2 Climate Stewards to move our tree grants forward while we continue the search for a new Hort Team Leader/NR Educator.
- **Garden Outreach**
 - Rachel built new partnership with Experience Works, group now volunteering and learning on SLF weekly.
 - Partnered with nutrition educator Alyssa to host a 3-part food preservation series, for GROWS and 4-H BOCES students.
 - Gave farm tours - Leg. Long and Edgemere Development. Partnered with SNAP educator Michelle to host a pesto workshop for GROWS and LAI weekly volunteers.
 - GROWS/SLF has surpassed 1,050 pounds harvested and distributed!
 - Continue supporting E.D.E.N Denver Garden and Ave D Rec Center community garden. Hosting monthly Navigator meeting on SLF, highlighting GROWS. Hosting Bouy Scout pack #233 to learn about SLF mission.

Strategic Plan Update

- **Horticulture Team: 3.2 – *Celebrate our successes and recognize the contributions of our team.***
 - Rachel and Ashly led our 2nd community workshop on the South Lawn Farm. This time the workshop centered on our Biochar Kiln and why Biochar is good for our gardens. Additionally, the entire Hort team, along with Mallory Hohl (Harvest NY) and Lori Koenick (CVP) put on a Soil Health Day in collaboration with Foodlink's Lexington Farm.
 - 2 great outreaches and an excellent example of the power in partnerships!
- **MGV: 4.1 – *Leverage our relationships with current partners and identify new collaborations to address gaps and opportunities.***
 - See above!
- **GO: 5.2 Ensure the flow of information through formal and informal channels thereby strengthening the representation and value of the organization to the community.**
 - Increasing use of social media, connecting and building new partnerships throughout the community, and holding educational events for community members.

BOD Engagement Opportunity

- Please promote the Durand Eastman Fall Tours -
<https://monroe.cce.cornell.edu/events/2025/10/05/durand-eastman-fall-tours>

Story of Celebration or Success

GO – Miyana taking driving lessons and 5-hour course from ABC School of Driving.
The South Lawn Farm surpassed 1,050 pounds, more to come!

Sorry the pictures are sideways...we couldn't figure out why they wouldn't flip. 😊



Miyana showcasing an 800lb harvest on the South Lawn Farm!



Miyana showing MC Legislator Dave Long different growing practices on the South Lawn Farm.