

Oconto Community Garden Project

JULY 2008—The Oconto Community Garden Project is currently in its 8th season and despite getting off to a slow start due to a cool, wet spring, things are looking great now! This spring, teachers and students from the Oconto Elementary School and staff from UW-Extension helped prepare the garden, and the majority of the planting was done by the students just before the end of the school year.

About 15 students participated in the summer school gardening class earlier in the summer, which was taught by Kathy Pinkart. UW-Extension's Summer Intern, Travis Schardt, also helped teach some of the classes. The students learned about how to tend a garden, how insects can both help or hurt the crops, how composting works, and how great fresh-picked raspberries taste!

In addition to helping elementary school students learn about gardening, the community garden project is also used by the staff of the UW-Extension Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program to teach learners about the health and nutrition benefits of garden. The garden also serves as provides fresh vegetables for NEWCAP's food pantry in Oconto. Portions of the harvest are also be donated to the Commission on Aging meal site, and to groups from New View Industries who will visit the garden later this summer.

We would like to thank Oconto NEWCAP for providing financial support to help cover costs associated with operating the garden this summer.

The community garden is located behind the elementary school in Oconto. If you're nearby, stop by for a visit. If you're not, you can see some recent pictures [are available here](#).