Sustainable Garden Bed

Sheet mulching 36′ x 24′

Recycled packaging materials and boxes.

We made one layer of cardboard over the entire plot

We sprinkled the boxes with water as we applied the cardboard

Spraying boxes with water to make sure that they are evenly wet.

We added a layer of straw next over the entire bed.

We watered the straw after we laid it.

The chickens are checking out our project and probably wish they could scratch in it!

We added one yard of free mulch next. As well as 1 yard of loam.

We tried to evenly apply the mulch throughout the bed.

We planted organic red hard wheat in January. This was our first crop to build nitrogen and establish vegetation before the spring garden.

Planting 3 varieties of garlic in the

Pergola garden bed

Measuring the spacing between plantings.

Polish, Music, and an Organic Italian Heirloom Garlic were planted.

A little closer up.

We also landscaped around the large sustainable bed for the chickens and wildlife.

Chicken scratch bed where we transplanted native plants. Hybrid poplars planted in 2012 are shown as well.

Rafe and chickens

Angle from the back corner near the new coop.

Pergola garden bed will be removed to expand sustainable bed in fall 2015.

I thought this needed more character and so I added the 1968 Ford F250 grill that we had lying around.

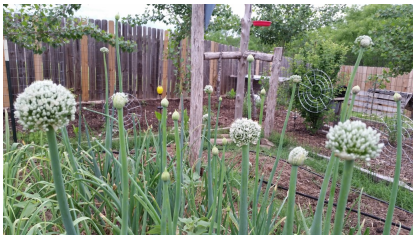
Gorgeous garlic! A few varieties of onions too!

This is a picture after only a few loads were dumped.

Then Kristin hauled in 34 wheelbarrow loads, (4 yards) of mushroom compost mixed with rich chocolate loam (sand and dirt).

Kristin added drip irrigation. for the new mounds that have 10 inch paths and are 30″ wide each. There are currently seven next to the Pergola bed.

Onions and garlic!



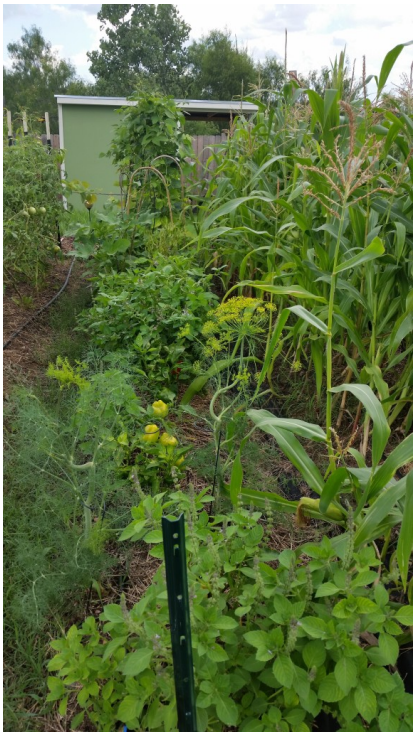
Oh how lovely are these walking onions!

Tomatoes, peppers, beans, okra, corn, chard, beets, radishes, and herbs.

We have received so much rain that the soil amendments have separated.

A better angle with progress!

Not quite ready yet. We are growing bio-intensively and have our tomatoes 18″ apart. With weekly trimming of all the unnecessary foliage our plants produce well.



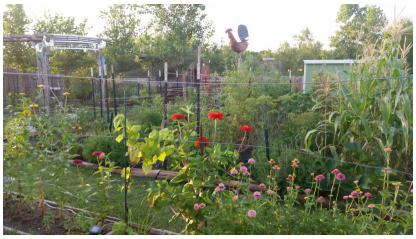
Dill, mild peppers, okra, beans, corn, basil

I’ve been growing Zinnias here since we bought our home in 2009. They are one of my favorite

July 11, 2015, I recently added more tomatoes.

I’ve already harvested a few ears of corn!

flowers that do exceptionally well in Central Texas! I grow the from seed and never know what colors I’m going to end up with!



July 11, 2015