

Solanaceae Evolutionary Garden

What is the Solanaceae Evolutionary Garden?

Members of the Solanaceae, the Night Shade family, are commercially important plants. They are used as both drugs and food. Some of the plants included in this are potatoes, tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, petunias, nicotina and datura. These plants contain solanium and atropine, two compounds that are toxic, yet have been used to make medicines.

The evolutionary part of this garden demonstrates that nature (time and environment) and science (breeding programs) can be responsible for the same and different biological changes over time. There are visual differences in size and color of leaves and fruits among the various plants. Disease and pest and resistance vary among the wild and commercially available varieties. Taste of the edible portions of these plants also vary.



Jellybean Tomato



Holiday Cheers Pepper



Large Cherry Tomatoes



Eggplant



Cayenne Pepper



Juane Flamee

Sandra Hoptowit

Plans for next year

Next year we hope to have funding to include more outreach programs and increased possibilities for teaching students, and the community in our Heritage Garden.



Acknowledgements

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Get Set Groups



Garden Shots



Outreach Programs

The Get Set program was designed to teach 13-17 year old foster kids independent living skills. Here at our Heritage Garden, they learned plant propagation, greenhouse management, and garden skills that can help them in their lives. This was our second year of teaching kids for Catholic Family Services in the outreach program. Other classes taught include, Yakama Nation Tribal School, Pace Alternative School, Granger School District and Summer Science Camp for the Mt. Adams School District. We hope to have these and many more outreach programs next year.

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