

A PERSONAL BEST IN SHOW from the GOSHEN COMMUNITY GARDEN

I've always been something of an accidental gardener, filling a few flower pots on a porch garden or tending a long succession of house plants. But since joining the Goshen Community Garden (GCG) in 2022, I've taken up gardening as a more serious hobby. It's a great pastime, and I've been lucky in my gardening too: The Goshen Agricultural Society has rewarded my efforts with "Best in Show" awards at the annual Goshen Fair, for my artichoke in 2023 and fennel in 2024. This year -if the hungry rabbits stay away- I intend to compete in the 2025 Goshen Fair with kohlrabi; I find it interesting to grow some new, different ...and challenging... vegetable each year.

No matter your level of experience, the GCG is a great place to pursue a horticulture hobby and have some fun. One especially good thing about gardening in a community, rather than solo in your backyard, is that it's an easy way to improve your gardening skills. All gardeners deal with the same problems: weeds, insects, and too much or too little water. But these hazards can often be overcome by exchanging tips about remedies that have worked for your garden neighbors. Whether you are talking with other gardeners or simply strolling through our garden to see what works, it's always a great learning experience.

What's more, "learning" in our garden doesn't stop with the informal exchange of ideas. We have been privileged to have the input of Lynn Fulkerson, who has a Master Gardener certificate from the University of Connecticut. Lynn has always been ready to help by sharing her knowledge and experience. And a growing group of volunteers ensure our garden runs smoothly and successfully. This support and the sponsorship of the Church of Christ Congregational deserve much credit for the GCG's success.

Finally, I think all members of the GCG find it rewarding to garden with the goal of donating our produce in support of local organizations providing food bank services or other food security in Litchfield County. So come join us in the garden and add some fun, knowledge and a larger purpose to your gardening!

Oh ... one last thing If you want to add the excitement of competition to harvest time (and participate in a historic agricultural Connecticut event) consider entering the top of your crop in the Goshen Fair ... it's just a stone's throw North of the GCG on Route 63!



Charles Immerman's First Prize