



Forming Connections Using Sweet Potatoes

Savannah Holt

The Beginning

- Spring of my freshman year
- In a gardening seminar in GreenHouse
- Wanted to focus on a project that went beyond the classroom



The Research

- Connected with Malachi Persche
- Focus on engaging the community around a research project
- Impacts of growing sweet potatoes in containers



Growing the Sweet Potatoes

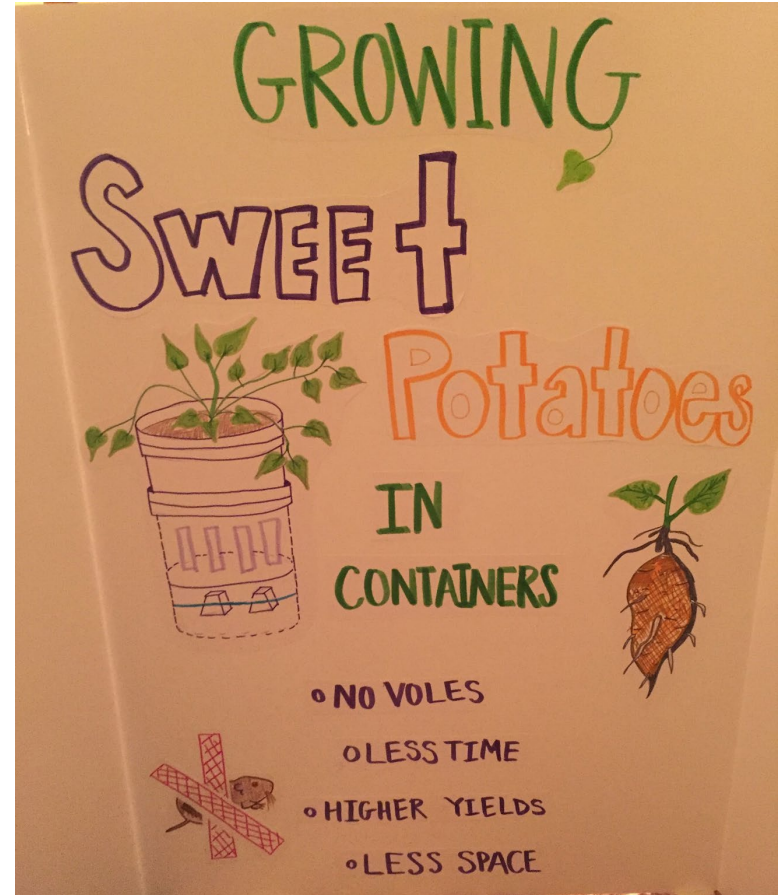
- Started with sweet potatoes from Willy Street
- Grew slips in Leopold GreenHouse



<https://www.eua.com/projects/uw-madison-leopold-residence-hall/>

Getting the Word Out

- Set up booths at the cold and warm season crop sales at Eagle Heights
- Reached out to their listserv
- Created an article for the newsletter



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Bucket Building

- Helped members of the garden to grow their own sweet potatoes
- Had multiple stations: drilled holes, dirt and leaf compost mix, sweet potato slips



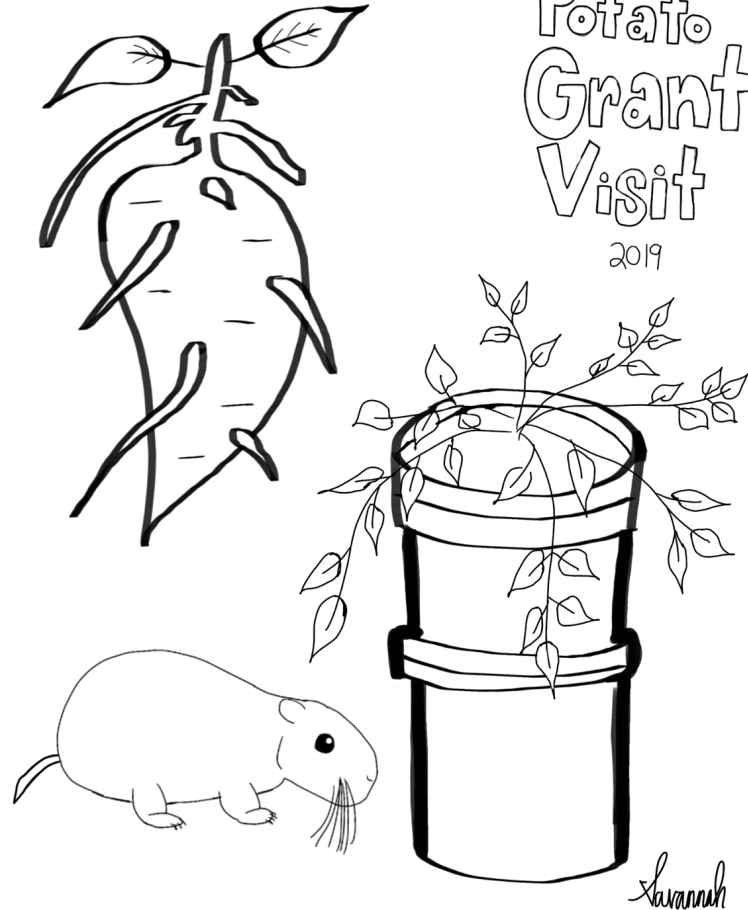
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Visit to Eagle's Wing

- Created activities for two classrooms
- Experiment for growing your own sweet potatoes
- Explanation of the project

Name: _____

Sweet
Potato
Grant
Visit
2019



Tour

- Hosted Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve
- Sustainable Agriculture



Harvest Festival

- Invited UW students, members of the community garden, and Eagle's Wing
- Worked in the cold to harvest and sort all of the sweet potatoes



**SWEET POTATO
HARVEST
FEST**



10.13.19 | 1 TO 5PM
EAGLE HEIGHTS RESEARCH PLOT
3016 LAKE MENDOTA DR. MADISON, WI 53705
FOLLOW THE SIGNS!

HELP DIG UP SWEET POTATOES!
FEEL FREE TO STOP IN AND SEE HOW
VARIOUS GROWING TECHNIQUES IMPACTED
CROP YIELDS. AFTER HELPING RECORD
DATA, VOLUNTEERS WILL BE WELCOME
TO SHARE THE PRODUCE!



SEE YOU THERE!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT SAVANNAH
AT SHOLT3@WISC.EDU



Research Update

- For the containers, the best performers were:
 - fertilized topsoil
 - mixed topsoil and leaf compost
 - fertilized pure compost
- Further testing for castor meal and fabric
 - Highest yields for field trials but lower rodent pressure



Looking Forward

- Malachi to focus on Beauregard
- Sub-irrigated 5 gallon buckets



Reflection

- Learning more about grow sweet potatoes
- Greater understanding of the diverse communities surrounding Eagle Heights
- Respect for agriculture and the sciences



Thank you! Questions?
