



WHY grow a garden in community?

What's wrong with the system?

In a word, everything. How we relate to what nourishes our bodies has been severed and what we see as a result is a sickness that extends to our bodies, our relationships and our society.

As a market gardener, I often have people come up to me at the farmers market and tell me how beautiful everything looks. When they say that it's because they are reading the energy of the produce displayed on the table.

Nothing I do is careless. Some people may say care is a luxury. People are starving, we need volume, not beauty. Not care.

I come from an energetic framework and I believe that care is exactly what is needed at this time. It is disconnection and panic that drives us into decisions where we cut corners and exploit the very systems meant to nourish us. The end game is clear from an energetics perspective. A system that is exploited provides exploitation. It's not vengeful or petty, it's just how it works.

I am also not naive. I don't think this little garden will solve all of the world's problems single handedly, but I believe it is a catalyst. Projects created with intention and care in all sectors shift the collective trajectory, allow for innovative perspectives and create new connections.



(Some of) THE PROBLEMS

“Food”.

The very word invokes a commodification, something we own and control rather than something we respect and build a relationship with. I don't want to feed people, I want them to be nourished.

Our bodies are literally built from what we call food. Anything that builds a human cell comes from the Earth and the plants grown through the planet. Even air that animates those cells has been provided by those plants. The miracle that those nutrients create human life lies within those plants, and whether you call that God, Creator or quarks, we can agree that when you take the time to consider it, it is worthy of our deepest reverence.

History.

Growing food for whole societies has historically been hierarchical. In agrarian cultures, farmers, servants and slaves have grown the food to provide for those considered above them in this hierarchy. Those that steward the process of growing food live with less at best and are oppressed and even enslaved at worst.



(Some of) THE PROBLEMS continued

Farm Workers.

We have somehow let this inequity continue into modern day, where those growing the food have limited income. Migrant farmworkers are subject to conditions and demands that are not sustainable long-term. In the U.S., farmworkers are exempt from minimum wage. Smaller farms may rely on apprentice and intern programs as a long-term labor solution and very few farmworkers, if any are able to sustain even the most minimal demands required for existing in society.

Farmers.

Depending on the type and scale of a farm, different reports have shared the distressing news that between 50 and 90 percent of American farms don't break even on an annual basis. More and more small to mid-sized farmers, especially organic and sustainable farmers, are leaving farming in their 30s, 40s and 50s due to the financial and physical pressures of the work. Many have one or more household members working full-time off-farm to cover expenses.

All of this, along with many other factors not listed, point to a system that benefits few and is on the brink of collapse. Our planet and her people are under increasing stress, and we're becoming too busy to even notice.



WHAT could alternatives look like ?

In my vision, our future is fueled by collective value shifts. The model that is most clear to me is the emergence of Agrarian-Artisan communities that inspire and support each other through creativity. People would come together to actualize visions like community food structures and gathering spaces, as well as artistic projects which serve to enhance the quality of living and inspire each other to create a world of meaning and belonging.

We're starting with the smallest step, the ABC, which stands for Agriculture Built in Community but could just as well stand for Agrarians Building Culture, Alternative Being Collective or any number of monikers. The name is unimportant, it's the vibration of what we're doing.

The core membership is closed for 2026, but if you would like to be involved, please reach out at connect@emergencegardens.com