

GALLATIN GRUBBER

October 2020

What Worked, What Didn't

Again this month—and until further notice—we will be offering a virtual presentation in place of our monthly in-person meeting. Typically our October meeting is the time when we



Loretta Bendz discusses her 2020 cherry crop

gather together to talk about “what worked, and what didn’t work” in our gardens over the past summer. We’ll be doing that again this

year, but via YouTube. A number of club members were interviewed in September by Frank Erickson about their gardens and he has prepared a light-hearted and fast-paced video for you all to enjoy. We’ll post the video on YouTube on Oct. 5, our regular meeting date, and send out a link via email. Members can view the video whenever they like. Later, Don Mathre will distribute a written copy of the comments. Contact Don at (donmathre2@gmail.com) to add your comments.

Record Market Sales!

The 2020 garden season is over for the club. We picked the last veggies before the September 12 Farmers’ Market, then dug and prepared the gladiolas to dry for the winter, picked all remaining tomatoes from the hoophouse then removed the plants and stakes, and finally took up the t-tape irrigation system and removed the pea fences. The hort farm crew mowed and tilled the garden twice to get it ready for planting next spring. The income from our activities this year will likely set an all time record high. Why did we do so well? We don’t know all the reasons but some of it has to do with strong sales of flowers and flower arrangements. We also had excellent sales of basil and peppers, which were new this year. Going into the season we were unsure if changes to the market might scare away customers, but found there were plenty of folks still wanting to buy our produce and flowers once things got rolling in July and especially in August and September. But much of our success was thanks to our enthusiastic membership that turned out in force every week to maintain the garden and harvest for the market. Thanks to everyone who helped!

November Annual Meeting

Club bylaws require that we hold an annual meeting in November and elect officers for the next year. The board is trying to figure out exactly how to do this in light of limitations on in-person meetings. What we do know is that we will have a presentation—albeit virtual—by our own Don Mathre on his work involving plant pathogens that affect commerce, especially two fungal smut pathogens of wheat, particularly as they involve Montana wheat. Stay tuned for the details of when it will be available to view and how to connect to it.