

Garden, 2008

- All starters (Oak Park Farmer's market)
- Most successful: zucchini, napa cabbage, tomatoes (sungold, striped romas)
- Most unsuccessful: apartment-based composting (all nitrogen/no carbon -> ammomonia)



Garden, 2009



Seeds: Territorial (Washington)

Most successful: cucumbers, napa cabbage,
tomatoes (sungold, striped romas)

33 tomato plants = too many tomatoes
Solution: zucchini 'pasta' with fresh tomato sauce



Garden, 2011

- Seeds: Johnny's (Maine)
- Most successful: sunflowers, nasturtia, fennel.
- Most frustrating: corn, butternut squash, sugar baby watermelon
- Best meal: corn ice cream



Garden, 2012

- New office!
- Converted office into greenhouse/woodshop.
- Planted first seeds Feb. 15 (broccoli)
- Planted tomatoes Mar. 15 (repotted twice).
- May 1-15 (hardened tomatoes).



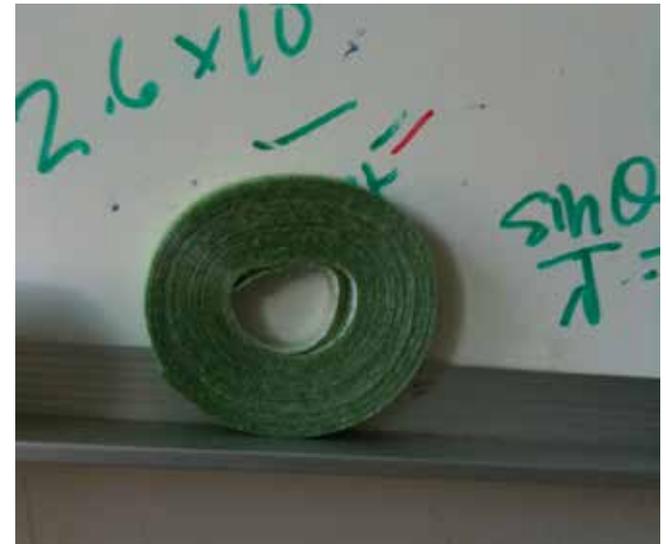
Construction

- Need larger tomato cages
- Used “oil derrek” design (6.5 feet tall, ~2 foot diameter).
- Used 1x2 furring strips (cheap), non-rusting screws, and jute.
- All construction done with hand drill and hack saw.



Some ideas...

- Plan ahead for a three season garden.
- Weed early, but less frequently later.
- **Compost.** (have multiple bins).
- [re]till soil by hand. Double up where plants are using soil from walkways.
- Use seeds. Start indoors if possible using large(ish) cups. Budget about 4-8 weeks before transplanting.
- Thin seedlings to single plants before planting. Re-bury plants to encourage root development.
- Mulch (I prefer wood chips).
- Water a lot at first, and then taper off.
- When planting: saturate roots and add a lot of 'gentle fertilizer.' (I use mater magic).
- Pick off unnecessary green stuff (wilty leaves, suckers, etc).
- New favorite thing: **velcro tape.**



Spring plants

- Garlic (grocery store)
- Broccoli (gypsy)
- Napa cabbage (bilko)
- Radish (alpine)
- Beets (red round ace)
- Swiss chard (rhubarb)
- Lettuce mix





Summer plants

- Tomatoes (sungold, cherokee purple, san marzano)
- Cukes (sultan)
- Bell peppers (snapper)
- Basil (genovese)



...critters