



Community Gardens Outcome Report Summer, 2009

Once again this year, 41 Bienestar families were able to augment their family food supplies by growing fresh fruit and vegetables onsite in community garden plots at Jose Arciga I and II, Jose Echeverria, Elm Park, Sycamore View, and Reedville Apartments. The most popular crops were tomatoes, peppers, onions, and corn.

This year for the first time there was a resident Community Garden Coordinator at each site who provided support and oversight of each garden. "This greatly reduced the staff's time involvement," says Gracie Garcia, Program Services Manager, "and also gave residents some new experience in project management."



A grant of \$1,000 from the Hardy Plant Society of Oregon meant that Bienestar was able to purchase a rototiller for the first time so that residents could more

quickly and easily prepare their plots. The grant also provided for hoes, rakes, shovels, hoses and vegetable seedlings.

As you'll see from the photographs, the gardens were family affairs, with adults as well as children working on their plots. In this time of layoffs, reduced wages and hours, the ability to grow their own produce helped combat food insecurity for our residents. A bumper crop of tomatoes this summer meant that many families were able to can them and have them throughout the year.

