

# September 4, 2023, Garden tour highlights

By Greg Fitzpatrick (fitzpat@peak.org)

- **Gray water system**
  - Greywater from kitchen sink, laundry, and showers are piped to the greywater Aqua2Use unit.
  - The greywater is pumped to the front garden in real time (as water is dumped into the unit. Any greywater left in the unit after 24 hours is pumped out.
  - I originally divided the front garden into 4 zones, not knowing if the pump was strong enough to water the entire garden. The pump turned out to be strong enough and there is no need for the 4 zones.
  - I had to put in a sump pump unit because the pipes supplying the greywater did not have enough slope to work properly, due to the shallow crawl space.
  - To ensure that the greywater being used on my garden was truly biodegradable and had only traces of sodium I use BioPac laundry and dishwashing soap. (<https://www.bio-pac.com/products/laundry-products/bio-pac-ultra-laundry-liquid/>)
  - A special drip tubing for greywater, that is less likely to plug up, was used (see below for information about his drip tubing.
  - Greywater system
    - \$700-graywater unit (Aqua2use GWDD)
    - \$2800-plumbing labor and material cost
    - \$460- sump pump (Saniflo company—SaniVite model)
    - \$600- greywater drip tubing—Water ReNu (<https://www.waterrenu.com>) Plano Texas—[214-762-2260](tel:214-762-2260)
    - **Total—\$4600.00**
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- The **Drip Irrigation** system for vegetable garden (not greywater) I use the Orbit b-hyve unit <https://www.orbitonline.com/collections/b-hyve>
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- I use the “**Grow a Little fruit tree**” method for my fruit trees. This method was developed by the Dave Wilson Nursery —Dave Laivo started experimenting in the 1970s in California.
  - Plant [18 inches](#) apart and slanted slightly.
  - Plant 3-4 varieties that ripen at different times.
  - Put plastic over peach and nectarines from November -late April) to reduce peach leaf curl.
  - Prune in the summer 2-3 times (reduces vigor) and a final time in winter to clean up missed and crowded branches.
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  - I have grafted onto my comice pear, scion wood from a Bartlett and Anjou pear trees in order to get good pollination.
  - I hand pollinate all my fruit trees using a Q-tip
  - You can order pear pollen from Pollen Pro <http://www.pollenpro.net/pollen>
  - Had honeybees but died off 3 years in a row—now going back to mason bees.
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- I use the **FoodCycler** by Vitamix to grind my compost material before composting it because it takes much less time to compost. (\$300 for the original and \$600 for latest version). [https://www.amazon.com/Vitamix-068051-FoodCycler-FC-50-Capacity/dp/B08BQYXVNT/ref=asc\\_df\\_B08BQYXVNT/?tag=hyprod-20&linkCode=df0&hvadid=459585790688&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrand=563591759695031562&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvgmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=1024429&hvtargid=pla-997092706687&psc=1](https://www.amazon.com/Vitamix-068051-FoodCycler-FC-50-Capacity/dp/B08BQYXVNT/ref=asc_df_B08BQYXVNT/?tag=hyprod-20&linkCode=df0&hvadid=459585790688&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrand=563591759695031562&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvgmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=1024429&hvtargid=pla-997092706687&psc=1)
- **Hose tenders** (use electrical box covers and 1/2in conduit)
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- **Squirrel and rat deterrents** (netting and electronic)
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- **Hoop houses**—I use conduit benders from Johnnyseeds to bend the conduit for my hoop houses. I can lend them out if so desired.
  - Benders: [https://www.johnnyseeds.com/tools-supplies/greenhouse-and-tunnel-supplies/benders/low-tunnel-hoop-bender-3-quick-hoops-7616.0.html?utm\\_source=google&utm\\_medium=cpc&utm\\_campaign=BL%20%7C%20PMax%20%7C%20PRP%20%7C%20HPN%20-%20Smart%20Shopping%20%7C%20All%20Products&utm\\_keyword=&gad=1&gclid=CjwKCAjw3dCnBhBCEiwAVvLcu53\\_HTAT2cuf7f76NgzEpgLPgR5FXoKPfY3ZzzbJfwW3TW-Ck7vqRxoCzxAQAvD\\_BwE](https://www.johnnyseeds.com/tools-supplies/greenhouse-and-tunnel-supplies/benders/low-tunnel-hoop-bender-3-quick-hoops-7616.0.html?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=BL%20%7C%20PMax%20%7C%20PRP%20%7C%20HPN%20-%20Smart%20Shopping%20%7C%20All%20Products&utm_keyword=&gad=1&gclid=CjwKCAjw3dCnBhBCEiwAVvLcu53_HTAT2cuf7f76NgzEpgLPgR5FXoKPfY3ZzzbJfwW3TW-Ck7vqRxoCzxAQAvD_BwE)
  - Maker pipe: [https://makerpipe.com/shop?gclid=CjwKCAjw3dCnBhBCEiwAVvLcu5MF53UUr4tnGfPyibPN6amh3RpaqVQJy732lnKTQSSqe2\\_oJnbyRoC3XIQA\\_vD\\_BwE](https://makerpipe.com/shop?gclid=CjwKCAjw3dCnBhBCEiwAVvLcu5MF53UUr4tnGfPyibPN6amh3RpaqVQJy732lnKTQSSqe2_oJnbyRoC3XIQA_vD_BwE)
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- I am making my **Raised beds** using used metal roofing so there is no wood touching the soil.
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- Raised strawberry bed (filling with old wood and logs)