

TO DO LIST FOR CROP PLANNING

this is a strategic way of thinking about crop planning RM & EA made. always add thoughts as they come - this is collaborative

1. COUNT UP THE NUMBER OF BEDS/FRAMES YOU'LL NEED FOR A GIVEN CROP
 - a. How many frames will you need of collards? How many of tomatoes? DO you need to increase for demand? Once you have this list in place, you can start mapping.
2. THINK OF CROP ROTATION.. 3 YEAR PLAN
 - a. Rotate crops out of their given beds and don't return them for at least 3 years, when possible to disturb disease and pest buildup in the soil.
 - b. Keep previous year plans in front of you as you plan
3. FARM STAFF/YOUTH CREW
 - a. what do they need to function efficiently?
4. THE OVERALL LOOK DURING VISITORS TOURS
 - a. what looks best/comes up first/has least disease
5. MAP OUT THE CROPS ON THE FARM MAP : PLANS CROPS SECTION BY SECTION EX.) BLUE, THEN RED, THEN YELLOW, ETC.
 - a. Make a visual for yourself of what main season crops look like/where they will go/what sections they will be in
6. UPDATE THE CROP PLAN SPREADSHEET, PUTTING CROPS WHERE THEY GO IN SEASON
 - a. If the crop is a Long-term, full season crop, like Collards, it would go from March - October and take over all three sections of the Crop Plan Table that EA created (if you choose to use this)
 - b. If the crop is a hot crop and goes in later in the season (like Okra, that goes in in mid June) you can plan to put okra in the second and third boxes with dates
7. PLAN SUCCESSION CROPS OR PRE-HOT CROPS AROUND YOUR MAJOR CROPS
 - a. If there are gaps - like time before the okra goes in - plan to put in which cold crops, etc.
8. UPDATE THE WEEKLY PLAN TAB
 - a. Now that you have the basics of when crops need to be ready for transplant, seeding, harvest, etc you can plan backwards
 - b. Create a weekly plan to make sure you have cover crop turned two weeks before planting, beds fertilized over a week before planting, and plan adequately to see how much work you can get done each week and how much you can assign to your team v. volunteers v. youth program!