



## LETTUCE GROW'S MISSION

**We provide educational and gardening experiences to people who are incarcerated and leaving incarceration in the state of Oregon.**

**Youth and adults, who are incarcerated, are one of the least served populations in our society.**

**By bringing gardening and gardening education to them we create positive experiences which can aid an inmate's successful reentry into society.**

## WHAT WE DO

**We provide the following classes for inmates:**

- Oregon Food Bank's Seed to Supper Class
- Oregon State University Extension Service -Sustainable Gardening Class
- Lettuce Grow's Greenhouse Management Class
- Plant Disease Diagnostic
- New Plant Taxonomy
- Revised Culinary Arts Program

Along with offering classes, our volunteers work side by side with the inmates in the correctional institution's gardens, providing hands on practical gardening instruction and friendship to incarcerated individuals. We build garden boxes which give incarcerated individuals the opportunity to have the full gardening experience, which will enhance their appreciation of gardening and the natural world.

## HOW ARE WE DOING?

**Over 1500 inmates have graduated from the OSU Sustainable Gardening Class, 260 have graduated from the Greenhouse Management Class we developed in conjunction with Chemeketa CC and 615 have received certificates of completion from the Oregon Foodbank's Seed to Supper class.**

Upon successful completion of the Sustainable Gardening class, our students receive a Certificate of Home Horticulture, a recognized job credential in the state of Oregon.

Two years ago we introduced our new Greenhouse Management class which also provides a certificate which can be used as a job credential.

The Oregon Department of Corrections recognizes Lettuce Grow as one of the most successful and cost-effective programs offered to inmates.

Most importantly, while the inmate recidivism rate in the United States is over 75% and in the State of Oregon it is 30%. Inmates who have been through our gardening program have a 4% recidivism rate.

In 2020, Lettuce Grow worked with prison gardens to produce over 365,536 lbs. of food of food for prison kitchens, a benefit to the institutions and the health of inmates. 10,340 lbs. of food went to food banks and community organizations across the state. In 2018 we took over management of the gardens at Coffee

Creek Correctional Facility. We have built 15, 4'x8' garden boxes which will be shared by 2 units in the medium facility at Coffee Creek. By Summer 2024 we hope to create a vibrant garden in what is now a gray concrete space. We have also expanded our class offerings to the inmates on the medium side of Coffee Creek.

## WHAT DO WE WANT TO DO IN THE FUTURE?

- Provide Oregon State Correctional Facility and Santiam Correctional facility with blueberry plants to create a blueberry patch which will add much needed fruit to the diet of incarcerated individuals.
- Create a gardening curriculum adapted for youth offenders in K8-K12 facilities complete with tools for working with these specific populations.
- Work with our other Growing Garden programs and support agencies to provide for the wellbeing of family members of incarcerated individuals.

## WHERE WE WORK

### ADULT FACILITIES

Columbia River Correctional - Portland  
Coffee Creek Correctional - Wilsonville  
Deer Ridge Correctional - Madras  
Eastern Oregon State Correctional - Pendleton  
Power River Correctional - Baker City  
Oregon State Correctional - Salem  
South Fork Forest Camp - Tillamook  
Santiam Correctional - Salem  
Snake River Correctional - Ontario  
Warner Creek Correctional - Lakeview  
Federal Correctional Facility - Sheridan  
Oregon State Penitentiary - Salem  
Two Rivers Correctional - Umatilla

### TRANSITIONAL FACILITIES:

NorthWest Regional Reentry Center - Portland



## HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT OUR WORK

- Donate at [www.growing-gardens.org](http://www.growing-gardens.org)
- Volunteer to teach a class or work with the inmates in the gardens at one of these correctional institutes