



# Washoe County's Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical Garden Nationally Accredited Level II Arboretum





# May Arboretum Greenhouse

- **Dedicated in August 2017**





# May Arboretum Greenhouse

- The greenhouse is automatically heated and cooled by the LINK4 Environmental Control system software.
- There are 8 temperature set points to cool and heat the greenhouse. Each day the horticulturist monitors the settings and facility.





# May Arboretum Greenhouse

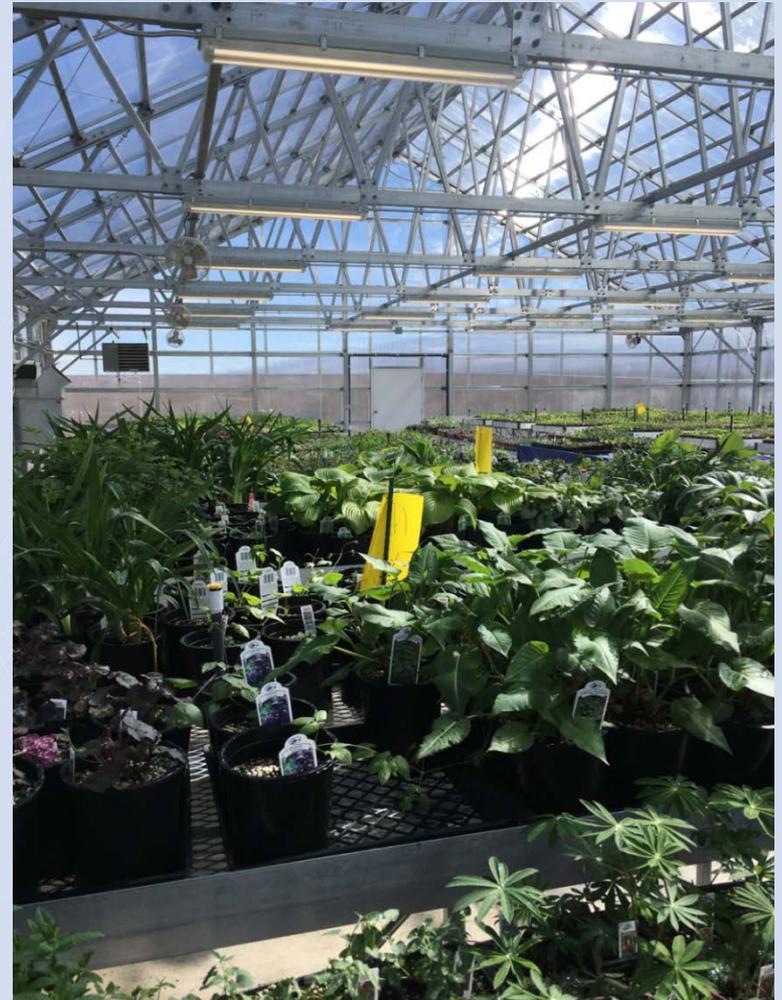
- Formerly a gravel floor, in 2019 the horticulturist was awarded \$37,700.00 grant from the May Arboretum Society to install a concrete floor. Concrete is easier to disinfect and offers a better work environment.





# May Arboretum Greenhouse

- In 2019 the arboretum was in full production. Over 12,000 plants were propagated. Many went to schools, sold at the annual plant sale and used in the arboretum. Two hundred ornamental grass plants were also grown for North Valley Regional Park.





# May Arboretum Greenhouse

- This past winter (2020) 192 milk weeds plants were started from seed for the Rancho San Rafael revegetation project.
- *Asclepias fascicularis* & Narrowleaf milkweed and *Asclepias speciosa*, Showy Milkweed.
- Planting milkweed colonies is part of the national movement for the monarch butterfly conservation effort.





# May Arboretum Greenhouse

- To increase germination rates, seeds are placed in 128 cell flats on heat mats (Jump Start) and placed in our germination misting bench and chamber. Seeds germinate quicker in warm soil.





# May Arboretum Greenhouse

- **What normally would take 14 to 18 days to germinate, using heat mats and the chamber, germination occurred in 5 days with a 99% germination rate.**





# May Arboretum Greenhouse

- Each tray/plant is labeled and dated with its botanical name, (genus and species) and common name. Plants are inventoried on an EXCEL spread sheet and germination date tracked as well as quantity and seed source.





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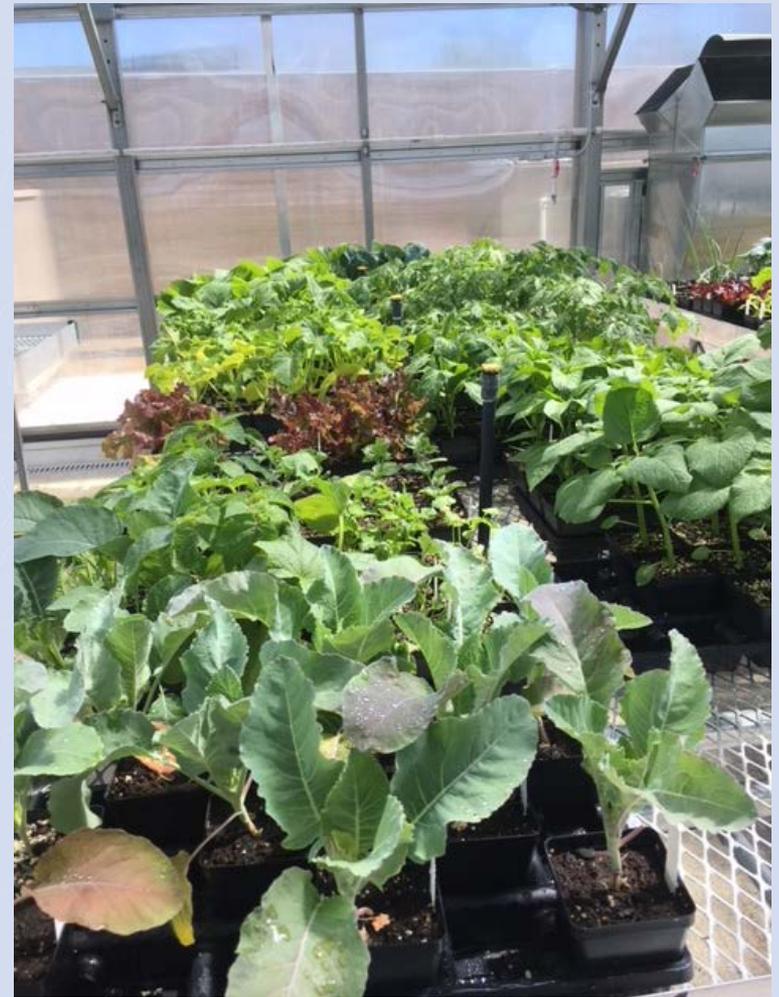
- **After the seedlings have one or two sets of true leaves, the seedling are “pushed up” into 4” pots. Currently our milkweed crop was transplanted into quarts container and are ready to plant.**





# May Arboretum Greenhouse

- **Over 3,000 plants have been propagated so far from seeds this year. Many were grown for our WC school seeding program. Due to COVID 19, the annual plant sale was cancelled. We did propagate over 400 vegetable plants for the Washoe County employee garden.**





# May Arboretum Greenhouse

- **Washoe County employee garden (4/14/2020). Special thanks to Colleen Wallace Barnum and Phil Brazier for assisting with the irrigation. Many Thanks to WCHD and the Green Team to make this happen.**





# May Arboretum Greenhouse

- While growing and scheduling vegetables, we also schedule annual flowerer production for the arboretum. This photo shows marigolds seedling “plugs” pushed up into 4” pots.





# May Arboretum Greenhouse

- **Alyssum, a flowering annual was planted by seed this year to showcase certain gardens. Using our germination methods we were able to germinate alyssum in 2 days.**





# May Arboretum Greenhouse

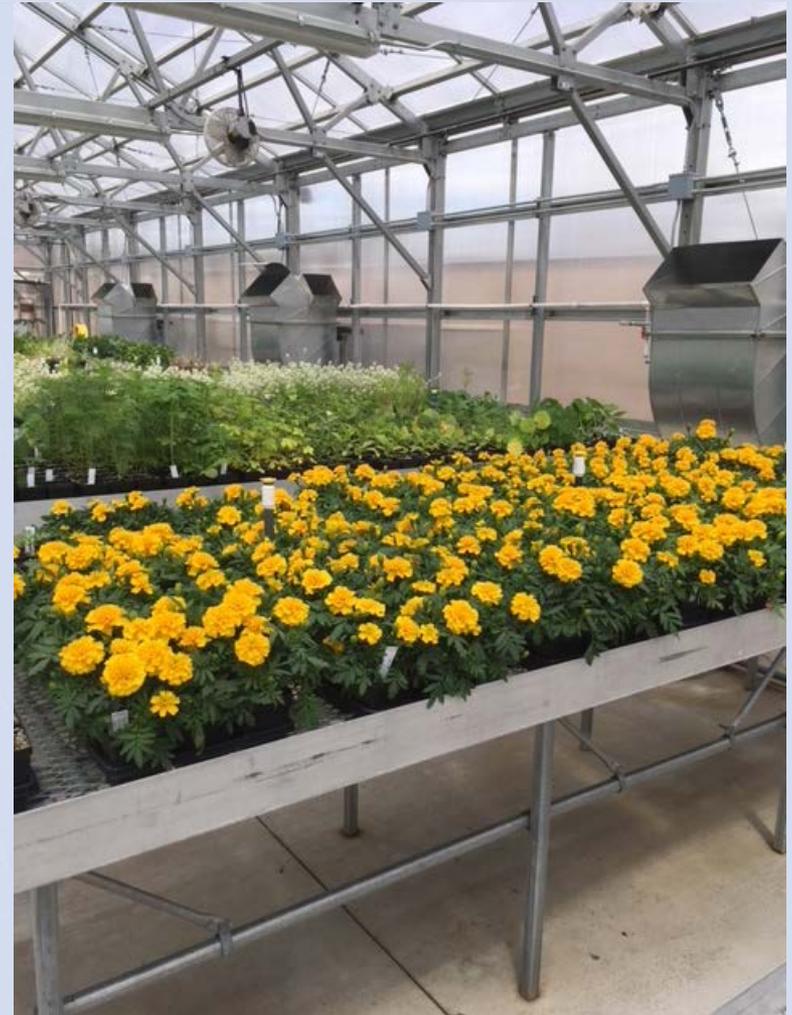
- The plants were then pushed up into 4 inch pots. Blooming began early March and were ready to plant outside in about 4 weeks.





# May Arboretum Greenhouse

- **Growing our own annuals allows us to get a jump on our spring planting, save money and allows us to keep our own inventory. Most box stores or nurseries won't have annuals in stock until later in the season.**





# May Arboretum Greenhouse

- **The May Arboretum assisted the May Arboretum Society with their lavender day event and sale. Over 785 plants/plugs were shipped to the greenhouse and pushed up into 4" pots, then quarts. Plants were allowed to grow for 8 weeks before being sold.**





# May Arboretum Greenhouse

- Before COVID-19, the May Arboretum relied on volunteers to assist at the greenhouse. Volunteers were called on to transplant and hand water if needed on weekends.
- Now daily monitoring is done by the horticulturist or staff.





# May Arboretum Greenhouse

## 20-2021 Summer & Fall Schedule

- Vegetables
- Violas
- Pansies
- Sweet alyssum
- Black-eye Susan
- Mixed Marigolds
- Asters
- Flowering Kale
- Chrysanthemum





# May Arboretum Greenhouse

- **Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical Garden.**

