

Garden Report: November 2020

- **Red Oak Health:**
 - Extension Horticulture Educator Ryan Pankau is finalizing plans to apply mycorrhizae around the Red Oak and is working with F&S. Ryan is also working with Diane Plewa, Extension Plant Diagnostic Outreach Specialist, on securing Cambistat for application in the coming months.
- **RORG Student Team:**
 - The RORG Student Team has been active on our social media platforms. Since they began in mid-September, our reach is up 109% on Facebook, up 57% on Instagram, and up 30% on Twitter. The team also created a [RORG TikTok](#) account, which has gained us a new audience of several hundred.
 - Nina Jurko wrote a popular blog on [RORG's edible plants](#).
 - Ariel Gomez helped the team coordinate with UIUC's La Casa Cultural Latina for hit [social media posts](#) connecting RORG to Dia de los Muertos through its support of Monarch butterflies, an important cultural symbol of that holiday.
- **Monitoring:**
 - **CoCoRHaS** rain gauge watchers reported 2.60 inches of rain.
 - **Soil:** Data is being processed from the soil infiltration testing, which was performed by the RORG Student Team in September. This data will be included in an upcoming blog post by Layne Knoche.
- **Observations of note:**
 - **November interest:** Smooth Blue Aster, Black Eyed Susan, Yellow Coneflower and 'Rozanne' Geranium all still had blooms through the middle of the month. Semi-evergreen species such as Pennsylvania sedge and Common Rush look great. Songbirds are being attracted by the dried seeds of various native species and the berries of Winterberry and Red Chokeberry.
- **Social media highlights:**
 - **Blog series:** Layne is writing blogs a few times a month to cover garden updates. The late-November update can be found [here](#).
 - Blogs were published covering previous student social media spotlights, "[10 Ways the Help the Garden](#)," as well as our "[Giving Tuesday](#)" fundraising campaign.
 - Leading up to Giving Tuesday (December 1), the team developed a 9-day posting campaign that expressed our gratitude to RORGs organizational and volunteer groups.
- **Progress toward Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation Grant (as of 11/30/20):**
 - **Volunteer Stewardship to be completed by 8/31/21.**
 - Physical: 234.25 hours. [Need 400 hours to receive \$4,000.]
 - Social Media: 99 hours. [Need 100 hours to receive \$2,000.]
 - **Donation Match**
 - We're at \$5,833.84, over 80% of the way there! [Need \$7,000 to receive \$21,000.]

