

Philadelphia Orchard Project – 2022 Final Grant Report

The grant of \$765 from The Hardy Plant Society in March 2021 helped to expand demonstration shade and pollinator gardens at the new POP Learning Orchard at The Woodlands. In spring 2022, POP staff and volunteers planted new herbaceous perennial edible plants including ramps, French sorrel, thyme, and oregano. Additionally, the team prepared new planting beds under the canopy of existing dogwood trees adjacent to the orchard, using the process of sheet mulching to eliminate existing vegetation and build healthy soil. In early December, the POP team planted additional shade tolerant perennial herbs, flowers, and groundcovers.

The goal of these new plantings is to demonstrate the range of edible, medicinal, and pollinator friendly plants that serve as useful companions to orchard plants. Plants demonstrate functions including attracting pollinators and beneficial insects, building healthy soil, and providing additional edible and medicinal yields. Support from HPS is noted on POP's website page on the POP Learning Orchard:

<https://www.phillyorchards.org/pop-learning-orchard>

