

# While More Americans Are Growing Their Own Veggies, Survey Finds Very Few Know How to Donate Their Extra Harvest

*Bonnie Plants and AmpleHarvest.org continue Grow More. Feed More. initiative to help gardeners battle food insecurity in their own communities*

**\*Note: Embargoed until Tuesday May 4, 2021 at 12:01 a.m. eastern**

## Bonnie Plants

Produced by: MediaSource <a href="http://www.mediasourcetv.com">www.mediasourcetv.com</a>	To download broadcast-quality video and other multimedia elements: <a href="http://bonnie.multimedia-newsroom.com/?p=1913">http://bonnie.multimedia-newsroom.com/?p=1913</a>
Package Length: 1:32	Content provided by: <b>Bonnie Plants</b>

## NEWS PACKAGE



<b>SUGGESTED TEASE</b>	MORE AMERICANS THAN EVER ARE GROWING THEIR OWN VEGETABLES AND HERBS. COMING UP, HOW PLANTING A LITTLE EXTRA THIS SEASON CAN HELP YOUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED.
<b>ANCHOR LEAD</b>	FOOD INSECURITY HAS MORE THAN DOUBLED SINCE THE START OF THE PANDEMIC. AT THE SAME TIME, TWENTY MILLION AMERICANS PLANTED A VEGETABLE GARDEN IN THEIR YARDS FOR THE FIRST TIME. BARB CONSIGLIO HAS THE DETAILS ON AN INITIATIVE TO ENCOURAGE THESE HOME GARDENERS TO PLANT A LITTLE EXTRA THIS YEAR, AND HOW THEIR GARDENS CAN HELP FEED THEIR NEIGHBORS AND SUPPORT THEIR COMMUNITIES.
<b>(PACKAGE START) -----</b> <b>CG: Courtesy: Bonnie Plants</b> <b>:00 - :03</b>	(Nats - Sound) :02
Shots of Travis and kids picking vegetables	THE HAMMONDS FAMILY LOVES TO SHARE THE VEGGIES THEY GROW IN THEIR GARDEN, BUT, LIKE MANY GARDENERS, THEY OFTEN HAVE TOO MUCH. :06
<b>CG: Travis Hammonds</b> <b>Home gardener</b>	<i>"That's one thing about the garden. It's going to give you back a lot more than what you put in it. :03</i>
<b>CG: Mike Sutterer</b> <b>Bonnie Plants President &amp; CEO</b>	<i>"Everybody in their garden has extra zucchini, cucumber, tomatoes that you don't know what to do with." :05</i>
Shots of Travis and kids picking vegetables (blur for graphic) <b>Graphic: Survey of gardeners</b> <b>-50% use all the food they grow</b>	A NEW NATIONAL SURVEY BY BONNIE PLANTS FINDS THAT WHILE ONLY HALF OF HOME GARDENERS USE ALL THE FOOD THEY GROW, JUST TEN PERCENT KNOW HOW TO CONNECT WITH AN

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<p><b>-10% know how to donate their extra harvest</b></p> <p><b>Mike Sutterer (CG'd earlier)</b></p> <p>Shots of gardener looking up food banks at AmpleHarvest.org</p> <p><b>Travis Hammonds (CG'd earlier)</b></p> <p><b>Mike Sutterer (CG'd earlier)</b></p> <p>Shots of Mike donating to food bank</p> <p><b>Mike Sutterer (CG'd earlier)</b></p> <p>Shots of Travis gardening with his kids</p> <p><b>Travis Hammonds (CG'd earlier)</b></p> <p>Shots of Travis gardening with his kids (PACKAGE END) -----</p> <p><b>ANCHOR TAG</b></p>	<p>ORGANIZATION THAT CAN USE THEIR SURPLUS. :10</p> <p><i>"Many people don't realize that food that you grow in your own yard can be donated directly to your local food pantries to help those in need in your neighborhood."</i> :09</p> <p>THROUGH THE 'GROW MORE. FEED MORE.' INITIATIVE, BONNIE PARTNERED WITH AMPLE HARVEST DOT ORG, A NONPROFIT THAT CONNECTS GARDENERS WITH MORE THAN NINE THOUSAND LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES THAT ACCEPT FRESH PRODUCE AND WILL PUT IT TO GOOD USE. :10</p> <p><i>"You can just put in your zip code and it will list all the ones near you."</i> :03</p> <p><i>"That cucumber that you harvest today will be on someone's table, who needs it tomorrow in your local community."</i> :10</p> <p>WHILE FOOD INSECURITY WAS CERTAINLY EXACERBATED BY ECONOMIC HARDSHIPS BROUGHT ON BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, THE HOPE IS THAT DONATING EXTRA PRODUCE WILL BECOME A ROUTINE PART OF THE SEASONAL HARVEST FOR MILLIONS OF HOME GARDENERS. :12</p> <p><i>"Unfortunately, food insecurity in this country isn't going away after the pandemic ends."</i> :06</p> <p>COLLECTIVELY, GARDENERS' SMALL DONATIONS CAN MAKE A REAL IMPACT, AND FOR TRAVIS, IT ALSO HELPS HIM TEACH HIS CHILDREN THAT TAKING CARE OF EACH OTHER CAN MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE. :09</p> <p><i>"Pretty much, once a week, we were loading up just a lot of extras and taking it up there. It was great to not see those go to waste."</i> :07</p> <p>IN UNION SPRINGS, ALABAMA, THIS IS BARB CONSIGLIO REPORTING. :02</p> <hr/> <p>BONNIE-PLANTS-DOT-COM (<a href="http://bonnieplants.com">bonnieplants.com</a>) WILL DONATE FIVE PERCENT OF THEIR ONLINE PLANT SALES THROUGH JULY TO AMPLE-HARVEST-DOT-ORG.</p> <p>TO DONATE THE EXTRAS FROM YOUR GARDEN TO THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST, GO TO AMPLE-HARVEST-DOT-ORG TO FIND A PARTICIPATING FOOD PANTRY NEAR YOU.</p>
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## SOCIAL MEDIA

<p> <b>Share it! Suggested tweet:</b></p>	<p>A new national survey by <a href="#">@bonnieplants</a> finds very few home gardeners know how to donate the extra veggies in their garden. How Bonnie and <a href="#">@AmpleHarvest</a> are connecting gardeners with local food pantries to help battle food insecurity: <a href="http://bonnie.multimedia-newsroom.com/?p=1913">http://bonnie.multimedia-newsroom.com/?p=1913</a></p>
<p> <b>Suggested post:</b></p>	<p>While more Americans than ever are growing their own vegetables, a new national survey by <a href="#">Bonnie Plants</a> finds very few know how to donate their extra harvest. How <a href="#">AmpleHarvest.org</a> can connect gardeners with local food pantries and help them battle food insecurity in their communities. <a href="http://bonnie.multimedia-newsroom.com/?p=1913">http://bonnie.multimedia-newsroom.com/?p=1913</a></p>

## EXTRA BITES

<p><b>CG: Mike Sutterer</b> <b>Bonnie Plants President &amp; CEO</b></p>	<p>Sutterer says millions of new gardeners can make a big difference by donating produce: <i>"More people started gardening last year than any other time in history, over 20 million people. Those new gardeners could plant extra produce or just donate some of their extra harvest directly to local food pantries in their area."</i> :14</p> <p>Sutterer says the program is akin to victory gardens during the World Wars: <i>"It's really akin to what happened back in World War I and World War II, where you had victory gardens where neighbors would plant extra vegetables in their neighborhood to help feed other neighbors who needed it most at a time when it was important to do that."</i> :15</p> <p>Sutterer says it's gratifying to grow food for your family and also help others: <i>"It's an incredible feeling to be able to grow something and to have it turn into food that, again, not only can help feed you and your family, but you can take and donate some of that surplus harvest to help others in your community as well, which is really a gratifying feeling."</i> :15</p> <p>Sutterer says he hopes donating extra harvest becomes a ritual among gardeners: <i>"My hope, our goal is that part of gardening is donating surplus harvest from your garden to local food pantries. So that just becomes part of what you do every year when you garden, becomes part of the behavior and the ritual of gardening. In that way, we can help make a serious and significant impact on food insecurity."</i> :22</p>
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<p><b>CG: Travis Hammonds</b> Home gardener</p>	<p>Travis says gardening teaches his children a lot about life: <i>"It really took on a different level when we had kids and wanted to get them involved and just see the seasons of the garden and kind of relate it to how it applies to life and just there's a time to sow, reap, harvest, giveaway."</i> :14</p> <p>Travis says while your friends might want all your extra veggies, food banks do: <i>"If you grow a garden and you give it away to your family, friends, there's going to come a time when they say no more cucumbers, no more squash, no more zucchini. So it was great to have that outlet that no matter how much you gave, they wanted it."</i> :14</p> <p>Travis says he used AmpleHarvest.org to find a food bank to donate his extra produce: <i>"That's one thing about the garden. It's going to give you back a lot more than what you put in it. So when we have our extras, we've got the East Alabama Food Bank right here locally. Through Ample Harvest, we found out about that."</i> :10</p>
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### References

- <sup>1</sup>Food insecurity in the U.S.: Interactive Charts and Highlights, **U.S. Department of Agriculture, Sept. 9, 2020**. Online:  
<https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/interactive-charts-and-highlights/>
- <sup>2</sup>Food Insecurity Remains Elevated Across All 50 States, **Northwestern University, June 10, 2020**. Online:  
<https://www.ipr.northwestern.edu/news/2020/schanzenbach-household-pulse-survey-analysis-report-2.html>

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