

# CO-OPERATIVE GREENHOUSE INITIATIVE

## *Cordova Co-operative Greenhouse Survey Results*

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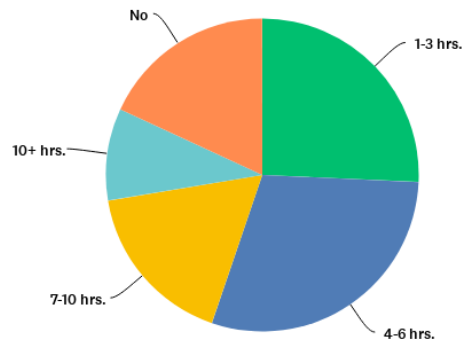
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In November 2020, a survey was made available to Cordova community members to provide feedback on a co-operative greenhouse initiative and gauge interest on increasing the amount of locally-grown produce in Cordova. The survey was met with strong participation, and we are excited to share the results with participants and the community. A joint effort by The Copper River Watershed Project, Prince William Sound Economic Development District, and a sounding board, the co-operative greenhouse initiative aims to identify sites, structures, and growing methods to sustainably increase the local supply of fresh, nutrient dense produce. Thanks to everyone who participated in this survey- the information gathered will help us move forward with this effort.



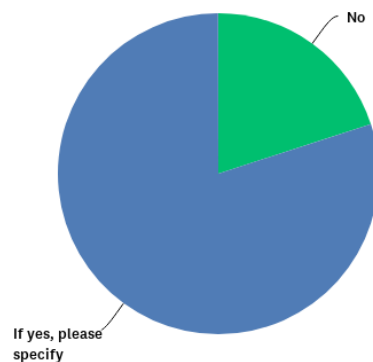
## Survey Results

Q1 Would you be interested in committing volunteer time to a cooperative greenhouse in exchange for produce? If yes, how many hours each month?



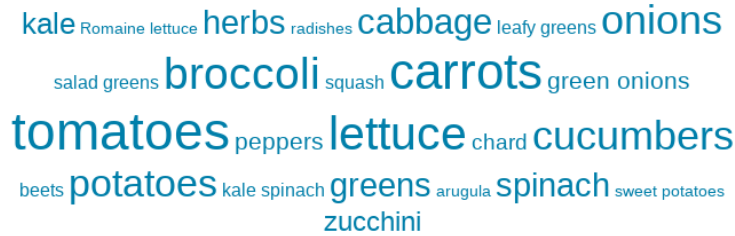
Based on survey responses, 81.90% of participants had answered they would commit to some amount of volunteer time each month in exchange for produce. Whether it is help building structures, harvesting, watering, or teaching workshops, volunteer time is crucial to the long-term success and sustainability for this food security project. Results showed 25.71% of participants would commit 1-3 hours monthly, 29.52% of participants would commit 4-6 hours monthly, 17.14% of participants would commit 7-10 hours monthly, 9.52% of participants would commit 10+ hours monthly, and 18.10% would commit no time.

Q2 Would you be interested in opportunities for kids to be involved(eg. through organizations, schools, clubs)?



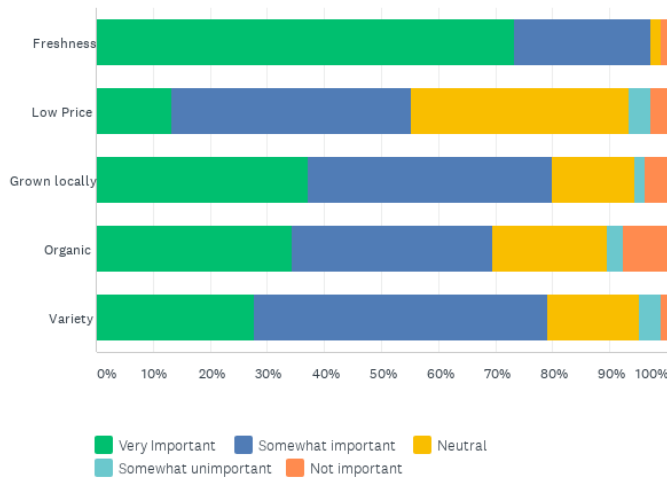
Results showed that 80% of survey participants were interested in opportunities for kids to be involved. Responses included interest in youth involvement through Cordova's schools in horticulture education (i.e.: 4H), give-back hours, clubs, and career development. Opportunities for community service hours for school and church requirements was also an area of interest.

Q3 What would be the top three vegetables you buy each week if you could choose any produce items?



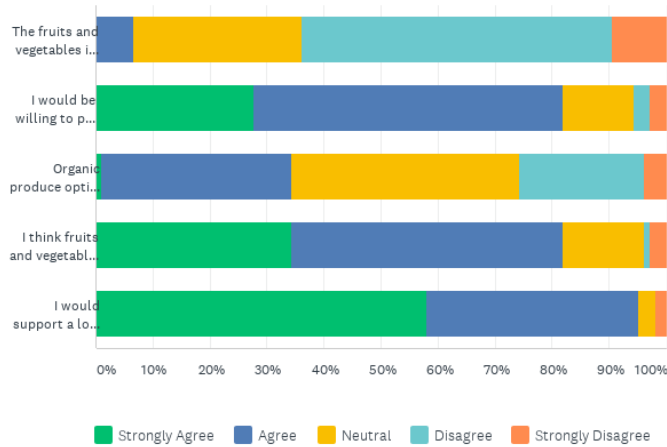
The figure above includes common responses among survey participants. The larger the word the more common the response was. Vegetables that grow well in Cordova include root vegetables and brassicas. Root vegetables include potatoes, carrots, beets, rutabaga, onions, sweet potatoes, and celery. Brassica’s such as broccoli, kale, cabbage, brussel sprouts, collard greens, and cauliflower also do well in Cordova’s growing zone.

Q4 When you are shopping for fresh fruits and vegetables, how important are the following things:



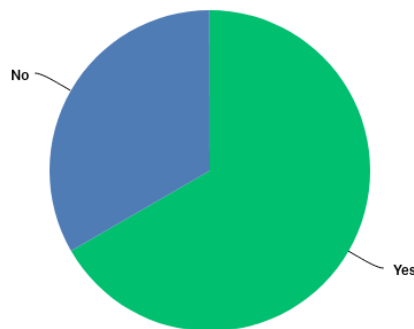
Freshness was the most important factor when shopping for fruits and vegetables with 73.33% of participants answering it was very important, with 98.1% of participants stating it was at least somewhat important. 80% of participants believed locally-grown produce was at least somewhat important. Variety was also important when it came to shopping for fruits and vegetables, with 79.05% of participants answering at least somewhat important.

**Q5 How do you feel about the fruits and vegetables that are available in the community right now?**



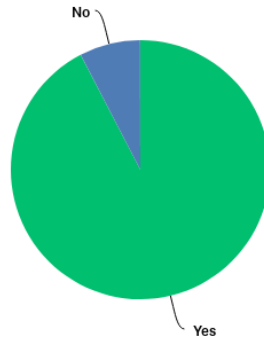
The grocery stores in Cordova do an amazing job supplying the community with fruits and vegetables year-round. Living in a rural community off the road system, Cordova depends on air and ferry freight for their produce, resulting in nutritional values of produce decreasing during transport. Sourcing our produce locally, will not only increase the nutritional value of our produce, it will also reduce shipping cost, reliance on imported sources, and have a positive impact on our ecosystems by reducing our carbon footprint. Survey results showed that 24% of participants strongly agreed to support a local business that sells fresh fruits and vegetables, 58.10% which strongly agreed. While 54.29% of participants disagreed that the fruits and vegetables available in their community are always fresh. 81.91% of participants agreed that vegetables should be grown locally, 34.29% agreeing strongly.

**Q6 Would you be interested in buying vegetable starts for your own garden?**



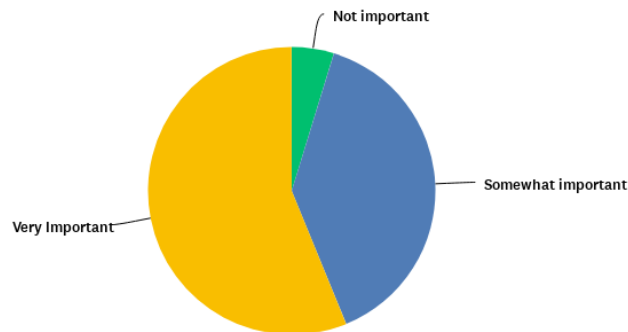
There were 66.67% of participants who would be interested in buying vegetable starts for their own gardens.

Q7 Do you agree that a composting service in Cordova would be beneficial to the community?



92.38% of survey participants agree that a composting service would be beneficial to Cordova. Cordova lacks fertile soil, and importing compost is not a sustainable practice. By creating our own compost out of food scraps, we are able to divert waste from the landfill and turn it into soil for growing produce.

Q8 How important is year-round vegetable production to you?



Growing food year-round in Cordova can be challenging and expensive, requiring supplemental light and heat in the winter months. 56.19% of survey participants thought it was very important to have year-round produce production, while only 4.76% of participants thought it was not important to produce year-round.