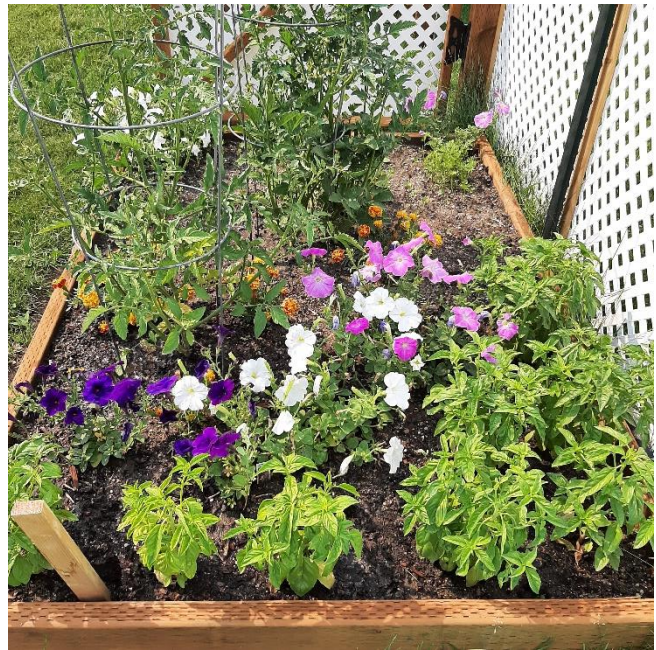


## Club RML Improves Its Community Garden

In the summer of 2019, Club RML started its community garden on the Rocky Mountain Labs campus in Hamilton, Montana. The idea behind the community garden was to provide cheap gardening spaces for campus employees, particularly for those without any space to do so at home. All six of the 4'x6' plots were reserved during the summer of 2019. The garden was successful at growing tomatoes, peppers, onions and many other vegetables. During 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic forced employees off campus and the plots were left as fallow ground throughout the year.

The community garden started up again in the spring of 2021 and Club RML made quite a few improvements over the 2019 version of the garden. First, the number of plots was doubled – up from six plots to twelve. There was also a fence installed around the garden plots to ward off rabbits and other local fauna. A few lots were converted to “Pick & Pay” gardens, where vegetables are grown and then made available to campus employees in exchange for whatever donation they feel is appropriate. All donations are used to fund Health and Wellness programs by Club RML. Lastly, a 13<sup>th</sup> plot will be available at the start of next season as an “accessible plot.” This space features a raised



garden bed that makes it possible to garden from a wheelchair or easier to garden for people with limited mobility.

For the 2021 summer season, seven plots were reserved for private use, three lots were used for the Pick & Pay program, and two lots remained

fallow ground. Produce such as tomatoes, potatoes, zucchini and cucumbers were made available through the Pick & Pay lots and a variety of additional vegetables and flowers were grown in the personal plots. Please view the pictures below to see the community garden results from the 2021 summer season! If you would like to inquire about reserving a space in the community garden, please contact [Taylor Robinson](#). Additionally, if you are interested in learning more about Club RML activities, please consider subscribing to the [Club RML Listserv \(CLUB\\_RML-L\)](#) for regular updates.



**Left:** Potato plants in a “Pick & Pay” plot. **Right:** Potatoes harvested from these plants.

