Every season, GP gardeners generously open their gardens to us by sharing stories about groundhogs from the netherworld and squash vine borers that have been miraculously overcome, or photos of never-ending zucchini and prize-winning tomatoes. It seems only fair to share our gardens with you in return. This season, Janet opted to garden at the family homestead, and while there are plenty of returning veggie favorites (mmm—crookneck summer squash), she and her parents have embarked on several gardening experiments this year. To start, they attempted to grow all their transplants from seed, some of which were saved from last year’s garden. They have also found room to try new veggie varieties—Romanesco broccoli (of course), blue Hubbard squash, chocolate bell peppers, Good Mother Stoddard pole beans and more!

Clockwise from top, the O’Brien family garden; tomatoes starting to pink up; volunteer sunflower in the winter squash bed; overachiever pole beans and jungle of summer squash in the background; hot pink bee balm and pale purple Echinacea by the third planting of greens.