



# Insight Garden Program at San Quentin



“Though I do not believe that a plant will spring up where no seed has been, I have great faith in a seed. Convince me you have a seed there, and I am prepared to expect wonders.”

– Henry David Thoreau

## History

The Insight Garden Program (IGP) began in the fall of 2002 as part of the Insight Prison Project (IPP), a community-based organization dedicated to helping inmates learn to respond rather than react so they stay out of prison. Since its inception, the effort also has been a part of San Quentin’s Success Program – an innovative rehabilitation effort initiated by former Warden Jeannie Woodford in the fall of 2002.

During the first year and a half of the program, a collaborative, participatory decision making process was used with key stakeholders – including inmates, outside volunteers, prison staff and administration – to plan and implement a garden within a medium-security prison yard serving 1,000 inmates. During that time, gardening and landscaping classes were also held and the program director simultaneously began conducting thesis research on the “Impact of a Garden Program on the Physical Environment and Social Climate of a Prison Yard.” The organic flower garden, which was created in December, 2003 now serves as an experiential learning lab for all involved.

The research conducted pre and post-garden implementation, has found that the garden has impacted program participants, as well as the physical environment and social climate of the prison yard.

In 2004, because of the Garden Program’s popularity and infrastructure issues surrounding its growth, a collective decision to find a fiscal sponsor was made. The Agape Foundation, an organization dedicated to non-violent social change, took over this role, and the “Insight Garden Program” was born.

## Major Program Milestones

MILESTONES	Fall '02	Spring '03	Fall '03	Winter '04	Spring '04	Fall '04	Spring '05	Winter '06	Spring 06
Success Program launches	→								
Garden Program classes begin	→								
Pre- Garden research begins		→							
Garden built				→					
Post-garden research finished					→				
Agape fiscal sponsorship						→			
Garden upgrade							→		
Garden planting 2 <sup>nd</sup> anniversary								→	
Receive 1 <sup>st</sup> Grant from Agape									→