

Planning Your School Garden Program



Developing a Vision for your School Garden Program

Working individually, finish these thoughts:

a. A school garden program will be good for our school because...

b. In our school garden students will

Learn about.....

Experience.....

If you are here with a school team, share answers to the previous prompt and then together discuss the prompts below. If you are here on your own, think about your school team and their shared ideas and respond to these prompts from your perspective.

a. List 3-4 shared ideas that inspire your team to develop a school garden program.

b. Develop a shared vision for your school garden. Describe what that includes.

Thinking Ahead—Setting Your Garden Goals

1. What would you like to accomplish by the next upcoming season (fall or spring)?

2. What do you hope to have in place one year from now?

3. What would you like to see happening with your school garden program five years from now?

Building a Support Network

Who can be a resource for your garden program?	How can you involve these people to build a team?	How can you keep people involved?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents • Teachers • Principals • Cafeteria Managers/ Food Service Directors • Grounds & maintenance • School nurses • Office support staff • Students • Neighbors • Businesses • Farmers • Youth groups and service organizations • City and county agencies • Garden groups, organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back to school night • First PTA/PTO meeting • Meet with teachers • Request time at teachers' staff meeting • Talk to grounds people often! • Email lists, phone trees • Flyers • Notices in school bulletins • Other publicity/media • Give garden plots for after school use • Garden with them • Organize: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Communication ○ Newsletter ○ Offer extra credit ○ Face-to-face ○ Tie in to school events ○ Personal invitations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold regular meetings • Put notices in school bulletins • Write a garden newsletter (or garden corner in school newsletter) • Involve everyone in decision-making (especially students) • Create visible signage around the school • Have kids make art for the garden • Hold events—social events; work parties; seasonal festivals; events for school community; events for larger community • Develop a system that volunteers can plug into easily • Post tasks to make working in garden easy • Field trips for the garden team (e.g. farmers markets, other gardens) • Make room for participants' input • Establish a clear, easy plan for on-going maintenance • Find ways to integrate garden with curriculum • Solicit media attention • Solicit help from local businesses • Research and write grants • Hold plant sales • Extend gratitude/ acknowledgements • Pay the coordinators!! • Make a school garden website • Have a teacher in-service day in the garden • Have regular garden work parties • Remember to eat food from the garden

Breaking it Down to Build it Up: Planning Your Next Steps Forward

Restate one goal your team has agreed to accomplish by next season (fall or spring): _____

List each task required to accomplish this goal	Materials/resources needed for each task (include cost estimate)	Lead Person/Assistant	Date to be completed
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

Restate one goal your team has agreed to accomplish by one year from now: _____

List each task required to accomplish the goal	Materials/resources needed for each task (include cost estimate)	Lead Person/Assistant	Date to be completed
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

Year-Round Garden Guidelines and Tasks

This guide provides general suggestions for common plantings and garden tasks throughout the year. These can vary based on climatic zones.

	FALL: Sept, Oct, Nov	WINTER: Dec, Jan, Feb	SPRING: Mar, Apr, May	SUMMER: Jun, Jul, Aug
Garden tasks through the seasons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check and repair irrigation • Inventory tools • Weed garden paths and open areas & cover in deep layers with wood chips or other path material • Mulch cold-sensitive perennials • Make & check plant labels • Save seeds on spring summer flowers or chosen warm season crops • Collect plant material and make compost piles • Plant cover crop seed • Plant perennial flowers and shrubs • In colder areas, protect plants from frost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prune trees & shrubs • Rejuvenate perennial areas by adding compost around plants • Cut back dead flower stalks on all perennial herbs and ornamentals • Add compost and mulch around base of fruit trees • Cover plants that are frost sensitive • Order seed and plan for spring garden • Stay ahead of winter weeds • Maintain worm composting • Plan for spring perennial plantings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flush, check, and make any repairs or modifications to irrigation systems • Watch for and treat aphid and other insect pest problems • As flowers develop, remove dead flowers to keep new blossoms coming • Reapply mulch around perennials to protect against summer heat • Mulch heavily around annuals that you want to maintain through summer • Get your aerobic compost system going • Protect young seedlings from late frost and/or birds with netting or row cover 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up watering schedule • Water and weed • Cut back dead flower stalks on all perennial herbs and ornamentals • Start seeds for fall & winter plants indoors • Make a plan for fall perennial plantings of herbs, natives, habitat gardens, etc. • Enjoy the harvest!
Planting options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Annuals:</u> Lettuce, spinach, chard, radish, potatoes, carrots, beets, peas, fava beans, broccoli, bulbs, sweet peas, snap dragons, pansies, calendula • <u>Perennials:</u> Herbs, California natives, habitat plants and ornamentals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Annuals:</u> Broccoli, spinach, lettuce, kohlrabi • <u>Perennials:</u> Fruit trees, raspberries, blackberries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Annuals:</u> Tomatoes, cherry tomatoes, potatoes, peppers, eggplant, beets, carrots, chard, summer squash, zinnias, cosmos • <u>Perennials:</u> Herbs, California natives, citrus, habitat plants and ornamentals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Annuals:</u> Pumpkins, corn, ornamental corn, winter squash, summer squash, gourds, tomatoes, beans, sunflowers, basil, zinnias, cosmos

Year-Round Garden Guidelines and Tasks

	FALL: Sept, Oct, Nov	WINTER: Dec, Jan, Feb	SPRING: Mar, Apr, May	SUMMER: Jun, Jul, Aug
Harvest options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>From previous season:</u> Pumpkins, corn, ornamental corn, winter squash, summer squash, gourds, tomatoes, beans, sunflowers, basil, zinnias, cosmos • <u>From this season:</u> Lettuce, spinach, chard, radish, potatoes, carrots, beets, peas, fava beans, broccoli • <u>Perennials:</u> grapes, kiwi, apple, pear, persimmon, pomegranate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>From previous seasons:</u> Spinach, broccoli, chard, potatoes, fava beans, Lettuce, • <u>Perennials:</u> Citrus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>From previous seasons:</u> Broccoli, spinach, lettuce, chard, kohlrabi, peas, fava Beans • <u>From this season:</u> Cherry tomatoes, carrots, chard, summer squash, potatoes • <u>Perennials:</u> Cherries, berries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>From previous seasons:</u> Cherry tomatoes, tomatoes, carrots, peppers, eggplant, beans, summer squash, potatoes • <u>From this season:</u> Tomatoes, basil • <u>Perennials:</u> Various tree fruits
Program Tasks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize School Garden Team and meet to develop year's plan • Revisit vision for school garden • Set goals for school year • Fall Event • Recruit Garden Team members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check-in on funding needs and efforts • Inventory and replace tools • Solicit potential collaboration with school cafeteria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring celebration • Plan for summer maintenance • Collect year's lesson plans and activities into one place • Thank people! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term planning • Training for teachers and volunteers