

Community & School Gardening Resources for Elementary and High School Teachers

Compiled by Dave Timmer, A Rocha USA and Queenie Bei, A Rocha Canada for October 5th Workshops at the CTABC & NWCSI Convention 2012 held at Lynden Christian

A Rocha Canada Community Garden Network

www.arocha.ca/communitygardens

Resources –Garden Manuals <http://www.arocha.ca/community-groups-resources/>

Garden Network Blog - News, Educational, Garden Updates

<http://www.arocha.ca/category/community-garden-network/>

Q&A Forum - Ask your questions and we will answer

<http://www.arocha.ca/community-garden-forum/>

HOW and WHY

Community Garden Toolkit

University of Missouri Extension, Healthy Lifestyle Initiative

<http://extension.missouri.edu/p/MP906>

School Year Gardens- A Toolkit for High Schools to Grow Food from September to June

Growing for the school year, however, can indeed be successful. The School Year Garden Toolkit, written by Paris Marshall Smith and Arzeena Hamir helps garden coordinators to select, plant and harvest vegetables during the school year. Tips on where to source materials, how to plan for summer care, and lesson plans are also included. (Richmond, BC)

Vegetable Crop List for September to June

<http://richmondfoodsecurity.org/Documents/School%20Garden%20Toolkit%5b1%5d.pdf>

Model of Outcomes for School Garden, Uses, Benefits, Groups/Users

Pictures for Slides

<http://www.kidsgardening.org/grants/about-school-gardening>

Getting Started: A Guide for Creating School Gardens as Outdoor Classrooms

<http://www.ecoliteracy.org/sites/default/files/getting-started-2009.pdf>

A comprehensive publication on why, getting people involved, site selection and design, site preparation and maintenance, fundraising, addressing challenges

Getting a Youth Garden Started

Youth gardens are as distinctive as the people who create and enjoy them. Ideally, they're created to meet local program needs, and use the physical site and available resources to their fullest. Though each is unique, the steps required to put together a successful and sustainable program are the same. They include:

- [Building the Case »](#)
- [Gathering Support »](#)
- [Planning the Program »](#)
- [Designing the Garden »](#)
- [Searching for Resources »](#)
- [Digging In »](#)
- [Maintaining and Sustaining the Garden »](#)

<http://www.kidsgardening.org/article/getting-youth-garden-started>

ARTICLES, USEFUL WEBSITES AND ORGANIZATIONS

It takes a Community- to Rebuild Our Food System - cites Wendell Berry's 'many solutions line'

<http://www.ecoliteracy.org/essays/food-security-it-takes-community>

Linking Food, Health, Culture and the Environment: A Visual Guide.

Discover through this visual guide how an enriched school environment can enhance student understanding of personal well-being and the natural world.

<http://www.ecoliteracy.org/downloads/linking-food-culture-health-and-environment>

Center for Eco-Literacy <http://www.ecoliteracy.org/>

The Center for Ecoliteracy supports and advances education for sustainable living.

Best known for our work in school food reform and integrating sustainability into K-12 curricula, we have engaged with educators from across the United States and six continents.

Publications and Downloads: <http://www.ecoliteracy.org/publications/downloads>

The Center for Ecoliteracy makes many of its extended publications available for downloading at no cost. They include Smart by Nature™ downloadable resources; a teacher's guide for the film Food, Inc.; a guide for starting school gardens; the Center's Rethinking School Lunch Guide; a visual guide to linking food, culture, health, and the environment; and a guide to district wellness policies.

National Gardening Association

For more than 35 years, the National Gardening Association (NGA) has been working to renew and sustain the essential connection between people, plants, and the environment. As a nonprofit leader in plant-based education, our vision is to make available free educational plant-based materials, grants, and resources that speak to young minds, educators, youth and community organizations, and the general gardening public in five core areas; education, health and wellness, environmental stewardship, community development, and home gardening.

<http://www.garden.org/>

Kids Gardening -- National Gardening Association (American)

<http://www.kidsgardening.org/>

Grants & Fundraising, School Gardening, Family Gardening, Resources

BOOKS FOR TEACHERS

Greening School Grounds: Creating Habitats for Learning, Tim Grant and Gail Littlejohn. 2001. (Canadian)

This book is not a dig-it-and-see-it planting guide for schoolyard sodbusters, although it does offer much practical how-to advice. Rather, its aim is to guide teachers through all phases of a school grounds project, from developing a rationale that will win the support of principals and administrators, through redesigning the grounds, to tapping the rich potential of the schoolyard as a place for hands-on, multidisciplinary learning. The organization of the book mirrors this process.

<http://www.greenteacher.com/gsgtoc.html>

Get Growing! Activities For Food And Garden Learning: A Teacher Resource For Elementary and Middle Grades

Get Growing! is written for teachers who are interested in gardening with their students at school or in the community. There is no better activity to integrate learning in all subjects from mathematics and science to art and music and everything in between.

Published from the **Intergenerational Landed Learning on the Farm Project**, a unique initiative of the Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy, Faculty of Education, University of British Columbia, with its focus on agriculture and food as the link between a healthy environment and human well-being.

Available online: <http://m2.edcp.educ.ubc.ca/landedlearning/>

Book List from Growing Chefs for Elementary School Classrooms

<http://www.growingchefs.ca/our-book-list>

ACTIVITIES & LESSON IDEAS

Green Schools Initiatives - Gardens and Food (American)

<http://greenschools.net/section.php?id=25>

Resources, Links, and Articles

Example: [Green Schoolyards Checklist & Tools](#), Grow an Easy School Garden

School Garden Weekly - Instructional activities for school gardens

School Garden Weekly is published in Los Angeles, California by George Pessin, Los Angeles County Certified Master Gardener. This was created to allow students, teachers, parents, and volunteers the information necessary to start and maintain a successful school garden.

<http://schoolgardenweekly.com/school-garden-news/school-garden-creates-jobs-at-john-muir-hs-in-pasadena-ca>

The Edible Schoolyard Project

Resources and Network of School Gardens, Lesson plans and ideas

Edible education is making an impact in communities all over the world. Learn about the innovative work being done and support the incredible people doing it. If you have a program, join the network and share your story!

<http://edibleschoolyard.org/resources-tools>

PROJECTS, CONSTRUCTION & MATERIALS

Classroom Growing and Learn to Garden Projects

<http://www.growingchefs.ca/learn-garden>

Steps to construct a Raised-Bed Garden

<http://organicgardening.about.com/od/startinganorganicgarden/a/raisedbed.htm>

Lee Valley - Gardening Supplies (Canada)

<http://www.leevalley.com/en/garden/index.aspx>

DIY Plant Markers Projects

<http://tipnut.com/garden-markers/>

Salvaged Materials - Wooden Pallets Gardening

<http://themicrogardener.com/20-creative-ways-to-upcycle-pallets-in-your-garden/>

VIDEOS

Agriculture – Food for Thought, Exploring Agriculture and Sustainability in the Lower Mainland (Metro Vancouver)

<http://public.metrovancouver.org/region/teachers/Pages/AgricultureFood4Thought.aspx>

How-To's Videos, National Gardening Association's

<http://www.garden.org/howtovideos/index.php?page=video2>

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR CHILDREN'S LEARNING

Growing Chefs! Chef's for Children's Urban Agriculture (Vancouver)

The *Growing Chefs!* Classroom Gardening Program begins every year after spring break. A team of three to four chef volunteers is paired with your class. The volunteers meet with you prior to their first classroom visit. You receive a Teacher's Kit that outlines the program and provides you with copies of handouts and extension and integration lessons. The chef volunteers visit your class every two weeks from March through June, for a total of seven visits.

Sustainable Opportunities for Youth Leadership (SOYL)

SOYL Summer Internship prepares Vancouver secondary students to be leaders in their schools and communities through hands-on experiences developing school gardens and supporting community organizations that advance our local food system. SOYL values diversity in all forms and is committed to creating a diverse, inclusive community. SOYL interns gain skills in garden planning, construction, planting, harvesting, and sales.

The SOYL Program currently supports school gardens at four Vancouver Secondary Schools: Britannia, Churchill, David Thompson, and Van Tech.

<http://soylprogram.wordpress.com/>

TAKING THE GARDEN FURTHER (FOOD SOURCING FOR SCHOOL)

Farm To School Initiatives in North America

USA <http://www.farmtoschool.org/>

BC: Public Health Association

<http://www.phabc.org/modules.php?name=Farmtoschool>

NATIVE PLANTS

Washington Native Plant Society: <http://www.wnps.org/education/index.html>

Information on native plants but also grant possibilities.

Capital Regional District Native Plant Guides, Edible Native Plants!

<http://www.crd.bc.ca/water/conservation/outdoorwateruse/workshops/nativeplant.htm>

<http://www.crd.bc.ca/water/conservation/outdoorwateruse/workshops/documents/CommonEdibleNativePlants.pdf>

Starflower Seed Mixes - NW habitats: http://www.wnps.org/restoration/documents/seed_mix.pdf

Pacific Northwest Native Plant Habitat Garden Manual: A How-To Workbook for Schools

http://www.wnps.org/education/resources/documents/Native_Plant_Manual.pdf

Wealth of information, ideas, and tips.

Native Plant Guide - through King County's website. Again, an incredible wealth of information and planting ideas, garden plans, etc. <http://green.kingcounty.gov/gonative/>

Local Conservation Organizations - generally chomping at the bit to work with students on restoration projects and even habitat gardens.

FUNDING IDEAS

There are many ideas online! It requires some matching for your particular needs, goals, and plans. Look into Community Grants and school budget allowances. Native plant gardens or restoration projects are usually encouraged by local governments.