
Starting Your School Garden

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Gardens are 90% Community and 10% Garden

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- Build your community: teachers, parents, administrators, facilities staff, community members
- Plan in the fall and have plans in place by February.
- Grants to build gardens are few and far between
- Tap into the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program for technical information
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Key Challenges

- Getting buy-in from school administration
- Planning for summer garden care
- Lack of gardening experience
- Continuity from year to year



Selecting the Site

- Water
- Sun
- Flat
- Access





RULES OF THUMB:

- Beds need to be three to four-feet wide. Kids have short arms
- Skip the greenhouse
- Use quality soil/compost





Handy Compost Sifter



Tools Needed in the Garden



Install Watering System

- Hand watering is hit and miss.
- Reduces summer care
- Regular watering promotes good growth

Plant For Spring And Fall

- Spring – Quick growing greens and cool season vegetables that will ripen before school is out: greens, lettuce, chard, radishes, spinach
- Fall – In the spring plant crops that will ripen after school starts up in the fall: potatoes, tomatoes, peppers, carrots, herbs, corn
- Don't plant fussy vegetables – beans, summer squash, cukes, melons



Resources for Lesson Planning

- Cornell University
 - <https://gardening.cals.cornell.edu/lessons/curricula/>
- Kids Gardening
 - <https://kidsgardening.org/>
- Life Lab
 - <https://www.lifelab.org/>
- National Education Association
 - <http://www.nea.org/tools/lessons/61378.htm>

