

Resources for School Gardens

[Big Green.org](#)

Big Green has spent the last 12 years helping people grow their own food — with garden-based education, scalable, modular garden products and systems, and a community of support and collaboration. They've built a network of over 700 vibrant and edible Learning Gardens in schools across the country and are now advancing home, school, and community gardens across the country.

- [Gardening Resource Library](#) offers activities, courses, how to videos, instruction manuals, recipes, and more.
- [Ready Set Grow! K-8 Curriculum](#) offers lessons categorized based on the various plant parts that we consume: seeds, roots, stems, leaves, fruits, and flowers. To facilitate learning, they offer diverse teaching options that allow educators to concentrate on literacy, science, and food literacy skills. These options are tied to each plant part found in the garden.

[Children & Nature Network \(childrenandnature.org\)](#)

The Children & Nature Network supports educators, parents and community leaders working to help kids reach their full potential by greening schoolyards and offering regular opportunities for outdoor learning. Their [Resource Hub](#) contains a collection of free toolkits, reports, infographics and advocacy tools is designed to help you or your organization connect children, families and communities to nature.

[Cornell University Garden-Based Learning](#)

These garden-based activities offer an assortment of lengths and formats. Activities can be appropriate for one afternoon, a six-week project, or can be incorporated into a longer program. Formats vary from one-pagers to full length publications.

[The Edible Schoolyard Project](#)

Based in California, the Edible Schoolyard Project is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the transformation of public education by using organic school gardens, kitchens, and cafeterias to teach both academic subjects and the values of nourishment, stewardship, and community. Their [Resource Library](#) offers free lesson plans and materials.

[Florida Agriculture in the Classroom](#) ([faitc.org](#))

Florida Agriculture in the Classroom offers lesson plans, grants, training, and other resources to help educators incorporate agricultural concepts into their core subject area classes.

- [Gardening for Grades](#) is a comprehensive guide for Florida teachers to help plan, fund, create and learn with a school garden.
- [STEMming Up Gardening](#) A comprehensive guide for Florida educators designed to integrate science, technology, engineering, and math into a school garden.
- [Gardening for Nutrition](#) A comprehensive guide for Florida educators designed to teach health, science, language arts, math and more using a school garden.

- [Lessons Archive](#) Hundreds of lessons that are hands on, correlated to recent standards and teach core subject areas.
- [Florida School Garden Planner - Google Drive](#)

[Florida Farm to School \(farmtoschoolfl.com\)](http://farmtoschoolfl.com)

Florida's Farm to School initiative works to increase Florida commodities served in schools, offer healthier meal options for Florida's children, and get students involved with nutrition and agriculture education through school garden activities.

- The [Gardening Resources page](#) includes resources to help learn how to plan, implement, and sustain your school garden project. These resources will also help you learn how to get your garden harvests into the cafeteria.
- [Grow to Learn](#) is a unique and helpful gardening guide for making school gardens beautiful and bountiful places to grow nutritious food, as well as vitalizing learning environments for students. It includes insight on building your team, gardening basics and guidance on how to sustain and expand the garden.
- [The School Garden Guide](#) is an at-a-glance guide to starting and sustaining a school garden in Florida. It walks you through the process of identifying and organizing the individuals, organizations and assets needed to develop and maintain a successful school garden. The backbone of this guide is a step-by-step process for getting the garden up and running.

[Florida Wildflower Foundation \(flawildflowers.org\)](http://flawildflowers.org)

The Florida Wildflower Foundation protects, connects, and expands native wildflower habitats through education, research, planting, and conservation. Visit their [Classroom Resources](#) page to download their Wild About Wildflowers! classroom activity guide and explore links to other resources.

[Florida Wildlife Federation](#)

The Florida Wildlife Federation, an affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation, is a private, statewide, non-profit citizens' conservation education organization composed of thousands of Floridians and non-Floridians with a common interest in preserving, managing, and improving Florida's wildlife. Their [Gardening for Wildlife in Florida](#) booklet provides an introduction to gardening with native plants, including information about pollinators and first steps to creating a garden.

[Green Schoolyards America](#)

Green Schoolyards America seeks to transform asphalt-covered school grounds into park-like green spaces that improve children's well-being, learning, and play while contributing to their communities' ecological health and climate resilience.

- [Schoolyard Forest System Resource Library](#) is a free, growing online resource library filled with practical resources to support schools and school districts as they plan, develop, use, and manage schoolyard forests.
- [National Outdoor Learning Library](#) is a free online resource library designed to help schools and districts move their classes and programs outside across the country and around the world.

[Junior Master Gardener \(jmgkids.us\)](http://jmgkids.us)

Based at Texas A&M University, the Junior Master Gardener program is an international youth gardening program of the university cooperative extension network. JMG engages children in novel,

“hands-on” group and individual learning experiences that provide a love of gardening, develop an appreciation for the environment, and cultivate the mind. [Learn, Grow, Eat & Go!](#) is their research-based, evidence-based curriculum project.

[Kids Gardening.org](#)

Kids Gardening provides lesson plans on nutrition, pollinators and wildlife, soils and environment, plant science, and arts and culture. Each lesson specifies an age group and fully utilizes the garden as an outdoor classroom. Their website also contains garden activities, growing guides, a community forum, and other resources. They offer grants on an annual basis (see Funding below).

- [Starting a School Garden Program: Overview](#)
- [Lesson Plans](#)
- [Resource Library](#)

[Life Lab \(lifelab.org\)](#)

Based at the University of Santa Cruz, California, Life Lab cultivates children's love of learning, nourishing food, and nature through garden-based education. They offer [publications](#) and several [school garden resources](#) to support your school gardening efforts.

[Nature Lab | The Nature Conservancy \(nature.org\)](#)

Nature Lab is the Nature Conservancy's youth curriculum platform and includes lesson plans, teacher guides and virtual fieldtrips. Visit [Resources for Building a School Garden](#) for lessons on planning, building, and caring for your garden, plus a video on overcoming common student fears.

[One Cool Earth](#)

Based in California, One Cool Earth is a non-profit organization that unites communities and schools to create thriving school gardens. Their website includes several free resources, including their [Earth Genius Curriculum](#), centered around three core concepts: waste, water, and food. In addition, their site includes video lessons and links to other resource guides.

[SGSO Network – A Learning Community of School Garden Support Professionals](#)

SGSO is a network of school garden champions, supporting programs at any level, from individual school gardens to School Garden Support Organizations (SGSOs) who serve multiple school gardens. Currently, our network consists of 4,600+ individuals representing more than 2,000 organizations or schools that support tens of thousands of school gardens.

[University of Georgia Extension \(uga.edu\)](#)

These garden-based lessons are all aligned to the educational standards for the State of Georgia. They are listed by grade level, and in grades K-5 are further subdivided into earth science, life science, and physical science topics. Grade 6 lessons are aligned with the earth science topics required at that level, grade 7 has life science lessons, and grade 8 has physical science lessons.

[Whole Kids Foundation](#)

The Whole Kids Foundation's Garden Resource Center contains tips for starting, designing, and preparing a garden, as well as a curriculum developed in conjunction with the American Heart Association. The [School Garden Curriculum](#) contains 35 lesson plans with activities to engage your students in a fun and educational exploration of fruits, vegetables, and healthy eating. The lessons are cross-curricular and support curriculum for Pre-K-5th grade. A variety of activities are included so you can pick and choose the learning objectives that are appropriate for your students.