



Purpose

- a dedicated place for **hands-on gardening** - *planting of annuals not perennials* - from seed to harvest
- contained beds for **experimenting with a range of growing conditions**, soil types, light, temperature
- to use math, science & language arts concepts
- close observation of root growth with **view window**
- a **safe place for food production** (food may be eaten)
- place to learn source of food, and nutrition education
- opportunity to learn to nurture and care for plants... with reward of delicious harvest
- **support urban ecosystems** (bees & pollinators)

Description

- **water access nearby** (locate near experiment area)
- number of beds depends on need and capacity to use & maintain throughout the growing season
- **bed size**: 3 foot width allows easy access to bed by younger students, length may vary from 4 to 8 feet +/- based on site; vary height (consider K-8 use) 6"-12" to protect from trampling; 18" - 24" high for ease of use
- **wide edge on bed** for sitting, note taking & working
- surrounding space to **accommodate full class**
- planting beds may be used by community in summer
- **green practice** - bed material safe for food production
- **soil** - high organic, appropriate for food production

Design Checklist

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> determine number and ages of users with teachers, community & afterschool staff | <input type="checkbox"/> special soil: safe, nutrient rich & appropriate for edible crops | <input type="checkbox"/> root viewing window |
| <input type="checkbox"/> review number and size of beds [minimum (1) 4' x 8' bed or equivalent area] | <input type="checkbox"/> bed height/shape, consider users, (and wheelchair use) | <input type="checkbox"/> wide border on top of bed |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> vegetable gardening: summer watering schedule required | <input type="checkbox"/> locate tool, materials & supply storage nearby & provide note board for record keeping |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> locate near water source | <input type="checkbox"/> consider the school's capacity for maintaining a garden |

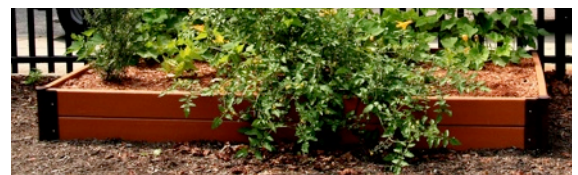
Illustrations



spring seeds starts for planting out in summer



summer program, teens harvesting salad



recycled plastic lumber raised bed (planting bed kit)



water source, per BPS approved specification



use lumber that is safe for food production



math, science & language arts



season extender - plastic tent top (by outside environmental education provider)



enlarged plastic lumber edge of raised bed is writing surface



root view window with side slide door cover (4"x 4" bed construction)