



Purpose & Description

Dedicated planting beds within the schoolyard and outdoor classroom are for hands-on activities for student and community use.

The raised, or otherwise clearly defined planting areas, are for planting **annual plants - the vegetables and flowers that grow from seed, or pre-started seedlings, each year.**

These planting beds are different from the urban meadow, sample woodland and schoolyard border landscape areas where trees, shrubs, **perennial flowering plants and seasonal bulbs are planted and come up year after year in the same location.**

Sharing Your Garden Beds

- what ages and grades will use the planting beds?
- create a garden planning calendar or plan for the year
- what curriculum connections can be found and built upon?
- consider shared use with summer program, community use and use by parents

Value and benefit of Growing Vegetables and Flowers

- ✦ to create a common shared experience for students
- ✦ to learn where food comes from & about culture / food connections and history
- ✦ research show that when children grow gardens their diet improves

Gardening is Fun - Just Start and Learn Together!

things to explore...

- ☐ when to water
- ☐ what to weed
- ☐ how to mulch
- ☐ planting from seed
- ☐ planting from seedlings
- ☐ when to harvest
- ☐ soil quality
- ☐ nutrients (N/P/K)
- ☐ soil PH / acidity
- ☐ soil texture, density, water absorption capacity
- ☐ when to thin and transplant
- ☐ matching space available to types of plants at maturity
- ☐ use of vertical spaces
- ☐ use of signage
- ☐ replenishing soil & compost

How to links

[USDA - United States Department of Agriculture](#) ... links to nutrition education and gardening (& Mrs. Obama video!)

[Boston Natural Areas Network](#) ...resources & gardeners information (link> seed sew and grow program)

Vegetable Growing Tips

...basic charts and lists

Soil Testing (U Mass Lab)

...send in early spring to beat the rush

National Gardening Association

.. kids gardening resources

America the Beautiful Fund

- Free seeds fro groups

Brooklyn Botanical Garden

... great source for books, activity sheets, information

Illustrations



spring seeds starts for planting out in summer



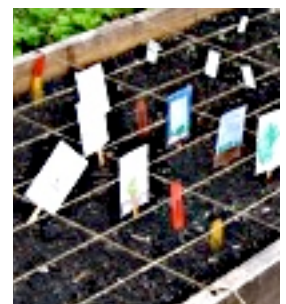
summer program, teens harvesting salad



edge of raised bed useful for seed sorting, data collection.



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



seeds sprouting and labeled



How to use the Schoolyard and Outdoor Classroom Planting Beds

Planting a school garden - Step by Step - for more details please see how to links listed on page 1

March

1. Plan your garden beds
 - Decide what to plant - (*see how to links*)
 - Layout the garden beds - vertically & horizontally
 - Who will take care in the summer may determine what you plant
 - Plant seeds inside under lights

April

2. Prepare the garden beds - (*see how to links*)
 - Weed, loosen soil & turn soil over (add peat moss or compost if soil is compacted)
 - Test Soil - (*see how to links*)
 - Add nutrients (fertilizers) and balance soil PH, add lime as needed

April seeds & May/June- seedlings and seeds

3. Plant the garden - (*see how to links*)
 - use string to layout rows for seeds and mark individual seedling location with sticks
 - Plant seeds after danger of frost
 - Plant seedlings & label

April/May/June

4. Weekly care of garden - (*see how to links*)
 - Water (as needed)
 - Weed & thin (after watering)
 - Transplant & label
 - Train onto trellis and tie to poles
 - Harvest "Salad garden"

July & August

5. Summer maintenance
 - Watering - baseline
 - Weeding
 - Harvesting

October/November

6. Put garden to bed for winter
 - Remove all plants and weeds
 - Turn soil over
 - Cover with mulch or compost

**Gardening is like cooking • a labor of love •
life-long learning • have fun and do not hesitate
to experiment!**

Types of Gardens

Spring Garden: Salad garden: Radishes, lettuce, spinach, snow peas

School calendar garden - Spring planting with Fall harvest : "3 Sisters" - Popcorn, Beans(drying), Gourds or winter squash; sunflowers

Summer Garden: Multicultural garden: Tomato & Pepper (from seedlings), cucumber & melon vines, potato tubers, & Collards (leafy greens), beets and carrots (root crops)

