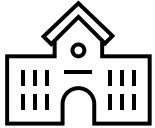




# SCHOOL GARDEN GUIDE

This guide was created to provide resources, examples and a step-by-step plan to help anyone, from a novice gardener to an expert, develop a plan to connect kids with opportunities to grow food.



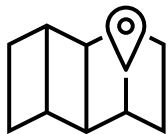
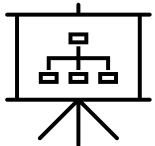
## STEP 1: Choose your school

Do you have children, grandchildren or other relatives attending a school in your community? Is there a school in your neighborhood? Start by selecting a school where you already have a connection. This will make the next steps much easier!



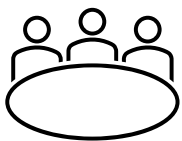
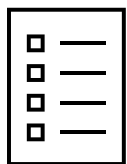
## Step 2: Get to know your allies and the school's approval process

Start by attending a couple of parent-teacher organization meetings to get an understanding of what projects have already been planned for the year. Maybe a garden is already on the group's list! These are the people who know how to get things done at YOUR school, so they can share their knowledge about approval processes and key staff contacts. Meet as many people as you can and get an understanding of whether there are other people who might be interested in helping with a garden project.



## Step 3: Review the proposed site and start creating a detailed plan

Whatever the approval process at your school looks like, it's a good idea to have a plan ready to share. The attached worksheet provides a template for preparing that plan. If you are not an experienced gardener, this is a good time to reach out to the [Iowa State Extension Master Gardener Coordinator](#) to find out if there are any current members in need of volunteer hours. Master Gardeners are excellent resources, and they are required to volunteer a certain number of hours each year. This is also a good time to bring together other community members, teachers, students, caregivers, etc. who want to be involved. Ask for help with the plan! A school garden is a group project!



## Step 4: Present the plan

Once you've got your plan ready, present it to the decision-making organization or staff members. Be prepared to answer questions and explain the reason this project is important to you and your school. Invite project supporters to the presentation.



## Step 5: Implement the plan

You did it! Follow your plan, bring together the volunteers and stakeholders, and plant that garden!

# School Garden Planning Worksheet

<b>WHO</b>	List the people who are helping to plan the project and include any partner organizations:	
<b>WHAT</b>	<p>What are you planning to do? Describe your project in detail.</p> <p>Will you host a planting day on the weekend? How will you tell people about the project and process? Will you be planting a raised bed or in-ground garden? Will you need fencing? How much? What other supplies do you need?</p> <p>How will you decide what to plant? Will you have classrooms vote or will you assign a type of plant to each grade level? How will you define success for this project? Will it be defined by annual integration into the curriculum? Number of participants in your gardening day?</p>	
<b>WHEN</b>	<p>Create a chronological timeline for the project:</p> <p>What are the important dates for the project? When will plants need to be selected? Are there in-school activities/lessons that need to take place? When? If fundraising is needed, when will it be completed? When will you order supplies? What date will you plant the garden? Will you host weeding or other events? Are there other important dates?</p>	
<b>WHERE</b>	Draw a simple map of the site, including any buildings for reference. Make sure your site is near a water source and gets good southern exposure.	
<b>WHY</b>	<p>Why is this project important to your group?</p> <p>How did this idea get started? Tell the story!</p>	
<b>HOW</b>	<p>How will the garden be maintained during the summer months?</p> <p>What other time or resources are needed from the school?</p> <p>Permission to plant? Access to water?</p> <p>30 minutes classroom time for plant lesson and selection?</p>	
<b>SAMPLE BUDGET (2022 costs)</b>	Soil (.75cuft x30) 1 truckload of DMASWA compost Fencing (50ft rabbit guard) Metal fence posts (4) Plant sign stakes Raised bed boards for 8x16 bed 1: 2"x 8" x 12ft (cut in half) 2: 2"x 8" x 16ft Steel corner brace 4: 2.5" x 1.5" x 2.5" Outdoor wood screws 1" Bale of straw or other mulch 13 heirloom tomato plants (4 varieties) <b>TOTAL</b>	\$63.88 Free (if not available, double soil expenses) \$40.65 \$21.36 \$5.58 \$76.97 \$21.32 \$3.48 \$7.46 \$39.00 <b>\$279.71</b>

A sample teacher/facilitator guide from the Lincoln Elementary 2022 Earth Day garden planting event is included as a resource and example of a successful project.



## Earth Day Planting Teacher Resource and Voting Worksheet

Thank you for helping us share knowledge about the plant life-cycle and build excitement about Saturday's planting event!

### TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS

1. Please share a video of your choice or one of the options below to provide students with an example of the plant life-cycle.
2. Please read (or have students read) the plant descriptions. Each classroom will vote for its preferred type of plant and these will be provided at Saturday's planting event. Small signs at each plant will note which classroom each plant belongs to and the name of the plant.
3. Please have students vote for the type of tomato plant they would like to plant and return your worksheet to Mrs. Brimeyer by Friday before the end of the school day.
4. Students and teachers are encouraged to monitor their plants throughout the rest of the school year and summer. Plants will be watered and weeded regularly by PALS members and other volunteers. There will be opportunities for students and families to help during the summer.

### PLANT LIFE-CYCLE VIDEOS

1. SciShow: How Does a Seed Become a Plant? (3mins) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tkFPyue5X3Q>
2. How a Seed Grows Read Aloud (5 mins) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O\\_6J4PeVo3A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O_6J4PeVo3A)
3. Ranger Zak Facts About Seeds (19 mins) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SEOKCqbMaT8>
4. Magic School Bus Goes to Seed (26 mins) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hNRFKGoTpxl>
5. Magic School Bus Gets Planted (26 mins) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cMNVwkxow6k>
6. Hydroponic Tomato Time Lapse (3 mins) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y8nh63mKUIM>
7. Potted Tomato Plant Time Lapse (2 mins) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ClOF5-XJqXE>

### TOMATO PLANT INFO AND VOTES

TEACHER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE LEVEL: \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST CHOICE: # \_\_\_\_\_ SECOND CHOICE: # \_\_\_\_\_

1. **RUTGERS CALIFORNIA SUPREME:** For six years, more than 12.5 million Rutgers California Supreme seeds circled earth aboard a satellite, then were retrieved by the crew of the Columbia. Back on earth, the seeds were distributed to more than 3 million school children and 64,000 teachers in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and 34 foreign countries. Fruit yield and marketability were unaffected in plants grown from space-exposed seeds and provide evidence that tomato seeds can survive in space for several years without adverse effects on germination, emergence, and fruit yield. These plants are grown from fourth generation seeds from the original space seeds.
2. **AMISH PASTE HEIRLOOM:** This tomato is said to have originated in the 1870s with the oldest Amish community in Wisconsin. This is one of the larger "paste" varieties of tomato, its fruit growing from 6 to 12 ounces. It varies widely in shape and though coreless, is somewhat seedier and sweeter than normal paste cultivars. The plant is an indeterminate variety, growing continually until it dies.
3. **OPALKA:** A sweet, thin-skinned fruit with a meaty flesh and very few seeds. They make the richest sauces. Introduced into the 1991 Seed Savers Exchange Yearbook by Carolyn Male. It was given to her by co-worker Carl Swidorski, who said the seed originated in Poland circa 1900. Producing phenomenal sets of 3" by 6" red paste tomatoes on vigorous wispy vines. This a perfect processing tomato. Fruits hold well on the vine.
4. **CHERRY TOMATO:** This is the only wild tomato found outside of South America! It is believed to be the direct ancestor of modern cultivated tomatoes. The tomato is thought to have been first domesticated in the Puebla-Veracruz area of Mexico and to have reached this area from South America in the form of a weedy cherry tomato. Cherry tomatoes have been popular in the United States since at least 1919. Recipes using cherry tomatoes can be found in articles dating back to 1967.