

GARDEN RESOURCE



10 STEPS TO A SCHOOL GARDEN!



Note: To make the application process as easy as possible, the main sections of this resource match the required sections of the application.

Your garden committee should expect to work through the following steps as part of the garden planning process:

1. **Kick Off:** Host a kick off meeting with those interested in a school garden to establish a garden committee and a contact person.
2. **Plan a focus:** Start to think about the purpose for the garden, who will use it and what the garden will grow in the first year.
3. **Create a Maintenance Plan:** Develop a plan for maintenance of the garden, including reviewing the School Garden Safety and Maintenance Agreement.
4. **Start budgeting:** Prepare a budget and determine the amount of money you will require to make your garden dream a reality. Develop a plan to fundraise. Investigate grant opportunities.
5. **Plan for Safety:** Outline your Garden Safety Plan and complete the School Garden Safety and Maintenance Agreement. Review the “Safety in the Garden” Section of this resource to help get a better understanding of how to provide for safe garden use.
6. **Draft the Garden Design:** Decide how many beds you will have, how they will be used and where they might be located.
7. **Submit your application:** Send your application to the School Garden Review Committee by emailing gardens@surreyschools.ca

Once approved, your school’s committee will then need to:

8. **Confirm a garden site:** Consult with the Grounds Department about selecting a site for the beds. Be sure that you have written confirmation of the garden location from the Grounds Department before installing anything on school grounds.
9. **Order Supplies:** Contact Purchasing to order district-approved, high quality and safe garden supplies at prices that have been negotiated for you.
10. **Plan for Installation Day:** Make a plan for a safe and well organized installation day. If parent volunteers are assisting with installation, be sure that all parent volunteers have signed a Volunteer Release Form.

SCHOOL GARDENS IN SURREY

Gardens in the District consist of above-ground, pre-manufactured, self-watering beds. The beds come in a variety of shapes and sizes, with the most common selection being 2 feet by 4 feet. The financial support for school gardens should come from local fundraising efforts and/or use of regular school-based budgets.

In an effort to ensure early success with your new school garden, elementary schools are permitted a maximum of 6 beds in their first year, while secondary schools are permitted a maximum of 12 beds in the first year. We recommend you start even smaller and build on your success over time.

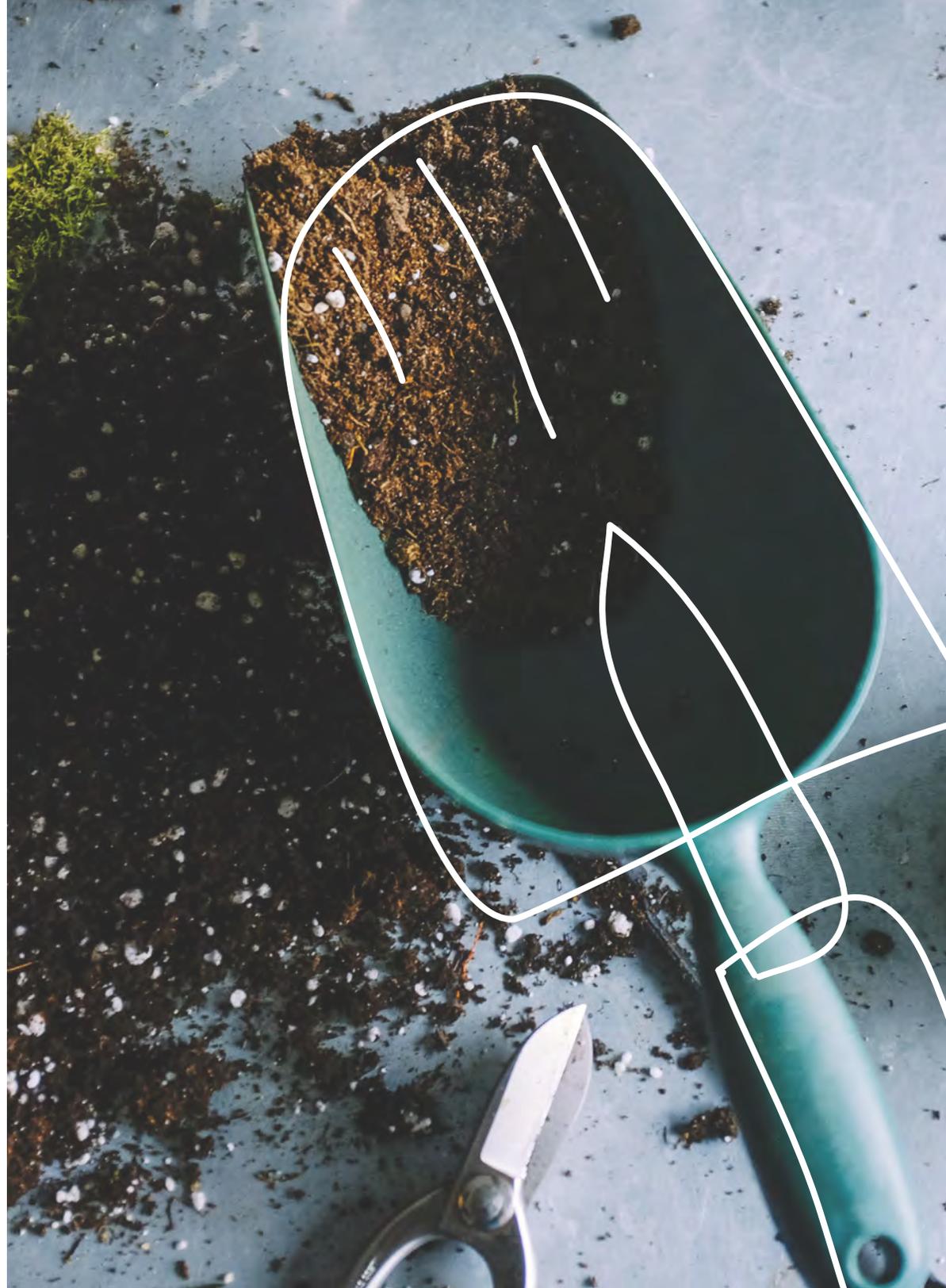
Self-watering planters are easy to move and position while empty. The self-watering planters consist of a filling tube which leads to a reservoir. Soil is placed into the bed surrounding the filling tube. Filter columns in the reservoir will allow for the water to permeate the soil at a consistent distribution, while the overflow drain prevents over saturation. Under normal growing conditions, some planters will only need to be filled once per month.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide is intended to walk you through the process of applying for and supporting a school garden in Surrey Schools. From inspiration to harvest, here you will find all the background information needed to establish your Garden Committee, submit your application, and maintain or grow your project.

This Guide also provides connections to learning opportunities that can be integrated across the curriculum, helpful “how-to’s,” and an on-line user forum to learn from each other.

To help make the application process as easy as possible, the main sections of this resource match the required sections of the application. If your Garden Committee gets stuck at any point on the application, be sure to consult the relevant area of this resource for the needed requirements and inspiration. Much like your garden, this is intended to be a living, growing resource, so check back often for new content.



GARDEN APPLICATION

The garden application can be [downloaded here](#).

The application is intended to be simple and easy to use. Proper planning will help to ensure that your project is a success over the long term.

Once complete please submit your application to:

gardens@surreyschools.ca

IMPORTANT DATES

Anytime – Form Garden Committee and hold kick off meeting; begin application

Dec. 1st - submit application

Jan. 10th - applicants notified

Jan. / Feb. - Fundraise

February / March - plan what to plant & purchase supplies

March/April - prep site; plant seeds; install signage; make arrangements for summer

May / June – harvest!

Sept. / Oct. - complete the harvest & prep for Winter

GET GROWING!



ASSEMBLE YOUR GARDEN COMMITTEE

Cultivating strong support within your school is essential to the long-term success of your garden. A cohesive Garden Committee will help ensure your garden receives the attention it deserves and the support it needs year after year. School Gardens are not a project for a lone green thumb! The Garden Committee will help share in the work and be the sustaining backbone of this project.

Your Garden Committee must be comprised of at least 3 members including:

- Administration
- Teachers / Educators

Also consider inviting:

- Someone with gardening experience
- School Health and Safety Representative
- Parent volunteers
- Students
- Support staff



TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Plan a kick off meeting to start the application process!
- Assign a Chairperson to be the point of contact for the application, grants and who will address any questions. The Chairperson will also be responsible for requesting and receiving all school garden materials.
- Committee members can divide up the tasks required to complete the application including fundraising, creating the budget and generating the supply list.

PLANNING THE FOCUS

An important step for your Garden Committee to complete early on is to work through the **Why a Garden?** question in the application.

It may be helpful in the first meeting to ask some questions to better clarify the vision, goals and scope for this project. Establishing a focus and purpose for the garden will help to determine what seeds, plants and supplies will be needed.

The following questions might help the Garden Committee to complete this section of the application:

- How will our garden benefit students?
- What makes our garden special?
- What will students learn from this garden?
- What do we hope to accomplish with this garden?
- What will our garden look like in 3 years?



TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Dream big, but start small. For first-year gardens, consider a size, scope, budget and type of garden that is realistic and manageable for the garden committee, as well as the teachers and students.
- As the collective experience, comfort, and support behind the garden grows, you can build the garden out step by step.

DESIGN YOUR GARDEN

All gardens in the District must use District-approved, raised, self-watering beds. How many beds will you have? What size and type? How will you configure them?

Take into consideration how you see the garden being used and what activities will be taking place in it. Also consider what is realistic to purchase in the first year. Start small and build on your success.

Don't forget to look to existing school gardens for inspiration. Reach out to other staff who have experience with school gardens for tips and to find out how they are linking their time in the garden to the curriculum.

See also:

Video: [School Gardens in Surrey Schools](#) featuring the well-established school garden at North Surrey Secondary (*shown at right; photo credit A. Vendramin*)

Share your ideas via the Surrey School Gardens [Forum](#)



BASIC GARDEN FEATURES

- Garden beds
- Labels for seedlings
- Clear signs including rules at entrance

FUNDING YOUR GARDEN

Organizing finances is a critical part of planning for your garden. It is important to start working on your budget early on, to help ensure that your plans are realistic.

Use the Budgeting Resource on the next page to help get an idea of how much the project will cost, and to help you determine your garden size, type and design.

The financial support for school gardens should come from local fundraising efforts and/or use of regular school-based budgets. You may want to refer to the School Gardens Catalogue to help complete this form.

See also:

Fundraising in the Resources Section

[School District NO. 36 \(Surrey\) Policy 5305](#)

[Equipment Donations](#)

School Gardens Catalogue

TIPS FOR SUCCESS



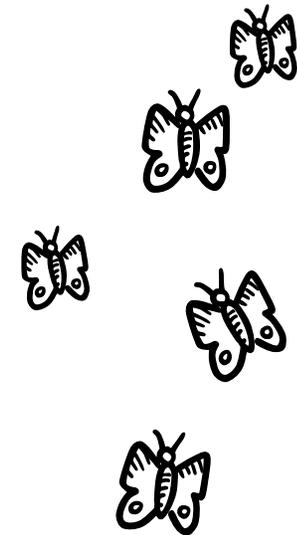
- Be realistic about how much you estimate your activities can generate.
- Consider bake sales, raffles and other small fundraisers.
- Apply to the Parent Advisory Committee for money.
- Create a list of possible local resources (community businesses or groups) that could provide “in-kind” or financial support.
- Businesses may donate supplies such as tools, plants or seedlings, or soil. All donated items must meet District standards.
- Keep track of all your funding requests and, if possible, elect one person to take charge of contacting organizations.
- Involve classes or clubs (i.e. the Garden Club) in fundraising activities!
- Apply for grants. See the “Resources” Section. Contact Business Development to inquire about any grants that they may be aware of.

BUDGETING

Please use the table below to plan for your anticipated costs.



Materials	Start-up costs	Maintenance costs (if applicable)
Self- watering beds		
Soil and fertilizer		
Plants / seeds/ starter kits		
Tools (list below)		
Storage*		
Wheelbarrow		
Watering Supplies (hose, nozzle, watering cans)		
Launch day		
TOTAL		



*Note: Garden sheds are not secure and become a target for thieves and therefore are not permitted on school property.

WHY GARDENS?

School gardens are a growing trend across North America, serving as a tool for integrating a number of “real-world,” authentic, and personally meaningful concepts and connections for students.

A garden provides an opportunity for place-based learning across different grade levels and subject areas. Spending time in an outdoor garden allows for physical activity and connects learners with nature. Through participating in, and observing the growing cycle, students are able to better understand where their food comes from. Many life skills can be learned in school gardens, such as research and the scientific method, problem solving, team building, cooperation, nutrition, and critical thinking.

Be sure to let the Selection Team know what you hope a garden will bring to your school. What are your goals and hopes for this space? What learning do you want to take place in the garden?

[Adapted from: A Guide to Growing School Gardens in Alberta](#)

For more links to learning opportunities, please see the Curriculum Section of the resource.



GARDEN FACTS

- Gardens, as well as the activity of gardening, have been shown to have a positive impact on peoples' health and wellbeing, the result of both the physical activity and the use of the garden as a space for mental relaxation and stimulation. [Source](#)
- School based gardens have demonstrated potential for contributing to nutrition education and improving vegetable and fruit intake among students. [Source](#)

PLANNING FOR MAINTENANCE

Ensuring that the garden is maintained and kept in good repair year-round, will be a priority for the Garden Committee. It is important that you have a plan in place to prevent the garden from falling into disrepair. A neglected garden is a safety risk for staff, students, the neighborhood, can make more work for District Staff.

In this section of the application you will share your plan for ongoing maintenance, including the Winter and Summer months.

Please review the **School Garden Safety and Maintenance Agreement**, which is included in the application. You will be asked to sign it as part of the application. The school's Garden Committee is responsible for maintenance of the garden on an ongoing basis.

THINGS TO CONSIDER



- Who will sow, weed, compost, and water during the school year?
- If multiple classes are using the garden, how will you create a schedule for caring for the garden?
- Watering plan: Who will refill the self watering planters and when? Create a place to document this at your school.
- Determine your plan for ensuring weeds, leaves etc. are put into organics bins to discourage rodents.
- Summer maintenance includes identifying who can come to the garden and tend to it. How will they access the garden and supplies and document their actions?
- Winter maintenance involves covering crops and spring soil preparation. It may be helpful to book this day in advance, and make it a school-wide effort.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Plan annual clean up days, tour-the-garden days, and other ways to keep interest in the garden high.
- Host a Pro-D day focused on integrating the garden into curriculum, to help inspire others.
- Consider planting a perennial garden which will require less maintenance.
- Involve school clubs in the ongoing maintenance of the garden.



A NOTE ABOUT COMPOSTING

All green waste should be disposed of in the school's organics bin where it will be composted with all of the District's other green waste.

See:

[Surrey Schools Rethink Waste](#)

SAFETY IN THE GARDEN

To help keep the garden experience positive and safe, the Garden Committee will need to be aware of some important safety guidelines.

In this section, you will find safe gardening practices and resources to help complete your application, foster an ongoing culture of safety in the garden, and reduce the chances of injuries and illness.

You will need to complete the **School Garden Safety and Maintenance Agreement** as part of your application. Note that your Agreement should be reviewed by the school's Garden Committee twice a year, once before growing season and once after. The Garden Safety Guidelines and the Food Safety Guidelines are to be reviewed with all staff who may use the garden. Please also post the Guidelines in a prominent location for staff to view.

See also:

Sample Garden Rules

Safety Guidelines

Food Safety Guidelines

[School District NO. 36 \(Surrey\) Regulation 5535.1- Food Safety](#)



TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- If your garden is being used to grow edibles, please review the Growing Food section of this resource.
- Post a list of general Garden Rules in a prominent location, perhaps where the garden tools are stored.
- Create a Garden Orientation for all staff and students using the garden.

TOOLS

- Tools are to be correctly maintained to be safe to use.
- Students are to only use tools when instructed to do so and closely supervised at all times.
- Close supervision is required when working with spades and forks – keep students working with large tools in a different area to students kneeling working with hand tools.
- Use the right tool for the job which is appropriate for the age of the student. Plastic and rounded tools should be on hand for use by younger students.
- Store tools safely in a secure spot when not in use. 'Tool stop' point to be clearly identified and all tools to be returned here when not in use.
- Ensure adequate working space for students when they are working around garden beds.
- Inspect tools regularly for damage and replace when needed.
- Donated items must be of same quality as the district standard and must be safe for use in schools.

SLIPS AND TRIPS

- Select a garden site that is level.
- No running or climbing in the garden!
- Remove fallen leaves before using the garden to prevent slipping.
- Keep paths in garden clear from tools and clutter.
- Only close-toed footwear should be worn in the garden area.

INSECTS

- Be aware of any wasp or bee nests. Report any nests near the site to the Grounds Department.
- Be aware of any children who have severe allergies to bee stings know the symptoms of an allergic reaction.
- Do not touch any insects or spiders.
- Use gloves and / or tools when digging or planting in the garden.
- Avoid disturbing bees/wasps and spiders. The garden needs these insects and we do not want to interrupt the good work they are doing.

MATERIALS

- Only district approved, self-watering raised garden beds are acceptable for school gardens.
- Digging directly into the ground is not permitted due to unknown soil contaminants.
- Pesticides/herbicides are not to be used in the gardens.
- Do not use pressure-treated wood, railroad ties, or single use plastics in the school garden.
- Do not use products coated with lead-based paint or other potentially contaminated coating.
- Use only district-approved fertilizer or soil enhancer.
- Store all fertilizer in a safe and locked location when not in use.
- Do not use raw animal manure in the garden as fertilizer due to microbial concerns
- Only potable (drinking) water may be used for irrigation.

WEATHER

- Weather-appropriate clothing is to be worn while learning and working outside.
- When the weather is hot, remember to drink water, and make use of shady areas where possible.
- Sunblock and hats to be worn while working on sunny days.
- In wet weather, paths may be slippery!
- In windy weather, avoid working near trees with large branches.

PLANTS

- Avoid planting hazardous plants in school gardens.
- Students should be instructed to ask before picking anything in the garden.
- Wear gloves, especially when working with plants associated with skin irritation (e.g. asparagus, carrots, pumpkins, and squash).
- Label all plants and seeds.

GARDEN SAFETY GUIDELINES

Please post the poster of these guidelines, included at the end of the resource, in a prominent spot where they will be viewed by all staff who use the garden.



Garden must be free of hazards e.g. rubbish, water collections, garden tools, trip hazards etc.

A well-stocked first aid kit must be readily available in the garden.

Staff must be aware of any students with allergies to specific foods, plants or insects & who is able to administer treatment in case of emergency.

Tools must be in safe working order.

Monitor for and document the presence of animals, and properly remove contaminants.

Staff using the garden must have orientation to the garden, School Garden Safety & Maintenance Agreement, and other resources including safe lifting and Fire Response.

Students must be supervised at all times in the garden.

Gates are locked / closed as applicable and any latches must be in working order.

GARDEN RULES

- Only wear close-toed shoes in the garden.
- Always walk (don't run!) when in the garden.
- Always ask before using any tool or harvesting any crop.
- Respect the plants, the non-living things, and each other.
- Wash your hands when you leave the garden.

WHAT 'S GROWING?

What's Growing?

Cool-Season Plants:

Can tolerate light frost and can be planted earlier in the growing season.

Beets

Broccoli

Brussels sprouts

Cabbage

Cauliflower

Kohlrabi

Parsnips

Peas

Potatoes

Radishes

Swiss chard

Turnips

Lettuce

Other greens such as endive, kale, and spinach

Warm Season Plants:

Cannot tolerate frost. Plant later in the growing season, after the danger of frost has past.

Beans

Cucumbers

Eggplants

Okra

Nasturtiums

Peppers

Pumpkins

Squash

Sweet corn

Tomatoes

Sunflowers

Strawflower

CAUTION: Be sure to consult the **Help Section** for information on poisonous plants.

Perennial Plants:

Can be planted throughout the growing season, although each may have its preferred planting time.

Black-eyed Susan

Catnip

Chives

Lemon Balm

Mints

Strawberries

Verbena

Other ideas:

Herb Garden

Butterfly Garden

Sensory Garden

GROWING FOOD

Preparing and sharing food is a rewarding, educational, and healthy part of growing foods. Foods need to be prepared following food safe principles.

When harvesting and using food from the garden:

- At least one person, per school, who is involved with the garden and/or food preparation, must have completed the online training course [Caring About Food Safety](#) as recommended by Fraser Health. This person should be able to consult with others involved in the food related events / food production. [Food Safe Certification](#) is recommended.
- Anyone who is sick should not be involved in food preparation.
- Anyone involved in harvesting foods should wash their hands before and after harvesting produce and before doing any food preparation.

Adapted from The Vancouver Board of Education, *Growing Food Gardens How to Guide*



A) If the kitchen you use does not have an operating permit (e.g. staff rooms, home economics classrooms):

- Produce may be washed, peeled, cut and served raw to students (e.g. taste tests).
- Produce may be prepared /cooked and consumed only by the involved classes.
- Washed produce may be donated (e.g. to school families, charities or foodbanks).
- Washed produce may be sold as a fundraiser.

B) If the kitchen you use does have a food service operating permit (e.g. cafeterias, restaurants, other kitchens that have applied to a health inspector and received an operating permit) any of the food preparation activities listed above are allowed, and additionally:

- Produce may be prepared in the permitted kitchen for sale or for educational purposes.
- Produce may be prepared for use in the school meal program.

FOOD SAFETY GUIDELINES

Please post the poster of these guidelines, included at the end of the resource, in a prominent spot where it will be viewed by all staff who use the garden.



One Staff person must have taken the “Caring about Food Safety” course to ensure guidelines and procedures are being followed.

Proper personal hygiene practices must be in place. All persons wash hands thoroughly, with soap, before and after harvesting food for public.

Persons who are currently ill or are known to be contagious must be prevented from working in the garden or handling any food.

Any product that has come into contact with potential sources of contamination (blood, bodily fluids, chemicals, broken glass, animal contact) must be properly disposed of as garbage, not compost.

Containers used to transport harvested items must be food-grade, properly cleaned, and in good condition

Food contact surfaces must be kept clean and sanitized prior to use.

All fruits and vegetables must be rinsed under cool running water and a vegetable brush should be used to clean them.



FOOD SAFETY RESOURCES

- **Caring About Food Safety** - a free, online course by the Provincial Government
- Fraser Health's site on Food Safety
- To learn about the regulatory permits, refer to Fraser Health
- The Canadian Partnership for Consumer Food Safety provides information for students on their website at www.canfightbac.org
- Health Canada's interactive guide on safe food handling

IDENTIFY A GARDEN SITE

Before submitting the application, the Garden Committee should explore the school grounds to identify a potential site for the garden.

Once your garden application is approved, your Administrator will need to coordinate a site visit to from Grounds to confirm the location for the garden.

It is important to ensure that your potential site is positioned so that it is not in the path of service vehicle or maintenance access, above power, water or on natural gas lines etc. Working with the Grounds Department will ensure that your garden is located in an appropriate spot.

More tips for site selection are included on the following page.



TIPS FOR SUCCESS



Sunlight – The potential site should get at least 6 hours of sunlight a day and ideally be south facing.



Use–Be sure your potential site will not encroach on student play areas or serve as a landing spot for wayward soccer balls or basketballs.



Visibility–The potential site is ideally visible from the school and to neighbors. Not only does this promote security, it also means the community can enjoy the sites and smells the garden brings to the neighborhood!



Security – It is essential to consider potential security issues when selecting a site. Sites that are in a remote area of school grounds may require fencing, whereas gardens in courtyards or common areas may not. The site should have space for lockable tool and supply storage.



Protection – Assess if the site being considered offers any shelter from prevailing winds or other potentially destructive environmental factors.



Room to grow – Select a site that can accommodate space for growing and learning now, as well as into future years.



Accessibility–Ensure that the potential garden site is easily accessed by students of all abilities and is on level ground.



Water - Although you will be using self-watering beds, the beds will need to be filled from a potable water source.

INSTALLATION DAY

Once the project is approved, siting confirmed, funds are raised and products ordered, you are ready to install the garden!

Who will arrange for delivery? What is the schedule for the day? Who will be available to assist with set up? How can you involve the larger school community? How will you celebrate a hard day's work? While you will have plenty of time to refine these details, it helps to starting thinking about these things early on.

There is a way for everyone to get involved: placing the planter boxes, pouring the soil, adding water, planting seeds, making signs and making sure everyone stays safe and hydrated while they work.

Take the time to ensure that your plans for the installation follows District policy and safe work practises.

If you are having parent volunteers help out, make sure each has completed a [Volunteer Release](#) (must be signed into the HUB).



HELP ON INSTALLATION DAY

- Students
- Staff
- Parents (see Use of Volunteers)
- The Garden Committee
- The Garden Club
- Athletic Teams or Clubs

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

There has always been a keen interest in gardens in Surrey Schools. Gardens represent the possibility for experiential, meaningful learning experiences across a range of curriculum areas, and places of wonder and relaxation that promote a sense of well-being. School gardens provide access to a variety of learning opportunities for students of all ages and abilities.

Research indicates that outcomes from involving pupils in school gardening include:

- Greater scientific knowledge and understanding
- Enhanced literacy and numeracy, including the use of a wider vocabulary and greater oral language skills
- Increased awareness of the seasons and understanding of food production
- Increased confidence, resilience and self-esteem
- Development of physical skills, including fine motor skills
- Development of a sense of responsibility
- A positive attitude to healthy food choices
- Positive behaviour
- Improvements in emotional well-being (Reed, Morris and Passy, 2010)

The purpose of the sections below is to provide educators with curriculum connections and resources that will deepen and enhance the learning experience that a school garden can provide.



- [Healthy Schools BC](#): Classroom and school gardens –Curriculum connections.
- [Get Growing! Activities for Food and Garden Learning](#) – A Teacher resource for elementary and Middle School.
- [School Year Gardens](#): A toolkit for High Schools to Grow Food from September to June.
- [Food for Thought](#): Exploring Agriculture and Sustainability in Metro Vancouver – A guide developed by Metro Vancouver and BC Agriculture in the Classroom to support student inquiry and learning about the relationship between agriculture, the environment, the economy, society and the daily lives of students.
- [Patterns through the Seasons](#): A Year of School Food Garden Activities.
- [Think Eat Green at School](#).
- [My Seasonal Round](#) – An Integrated Unit for Elementary Social Studies, Science, and First Peoples Learning Principles.
- [KidsGardening.org](#): A comprehensive site providing [lesson plans](#) and [activities](#) on a variety of topics including: Nutrition, Pollinators and wildlife, Soils and environment, Plant Science, Art and Culture, Garden Projects and crafts Outdoor Garden Theme and Structure Ideas, Edible Gardens and Seasonal Garden Ideas.
- [School Garden Wizard](#): The “Learn in the Garden” section of this resource contains many good resources, activity ideas and more links to curriculum.
- [LifeLab.org](#): School Garden resources including a YouTube channel of videos for students and videos for teachers, lesson plans and activities.
- [University of Georgia](#): Lesson plans and activities for all grades K-8
- [Growing Minds](#): Lesson plans and activities
- BC Agriculture in the Classroom Videos:
 - [FEEDING FRENZY](#) - How is our food produced, distributed and marketed in British Columbia?
 - [PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR MOUTH IS](#) - What does your dinner have to do with politics, technology and science?
 - [THE SUSTAINABILITY ROAD SHOW](#) - How are sustainable practices used in the production of our food? Watch video





First Peoples Connections

- [Indigenous Initiatives at the Centre for Sustainable Food Systems at UBC Farm](#)
- [Aboriginal First Nations Gardening, Calgary Horticultural Society](#)
- [Teaching about Wild Products from BC's Coastal Rainforests](#)
- [Science First Peoples Teacher Resource Guide](#): It is recognized that the wealth of First Peoples' science knowledge is held by communities. This guide can be used in conjunction with locally based resources that are developed by, or in collaboration with, local communities. It is intended to be a starting place for educators.
- [Marc Schutzbank](#): Education Director for Fresh Roots and was the person who helped operationalize the indigenous garden at Suwal'kh school in Coquitlam.

Health and Nutrition



- [Farm to School Guide](#): A fresh crunch in your School Lunch (2nd edition).
- [Cook it Try it, Like it](#): A Guide for Program leaders.
- [Garden Eats and Treats](#).
- [Growing Chefs](#): A non-profit agency that brings classroom gardening and cooking to your school.
- [Think Eat Green at School](#).



RESOURCES

Here you will find links to further resources to support teacher and student learning about school gardens.

Garden Forum

Share Your Experience - What's the most important thing you've learned about setting up or using school gardens? What advice would you give to another Garden Committee just getting started with their garden? How do you link gardens with the curriculum? Stuck on one part of the process? [Use this forum](#) to knowledge-share!

General School Garden Resources

The Vancouver School Board's [Growing Food Gardens How to Guide](#) was an invaluable resource in creating this guide.

[Vancouver School Board, Green Board Gardens and Food](#)

[Terra Nova School Gardens, Richmond SPEC](#)

[A Guide to Growing School Gardens in Alberta - Alberta Agriculture Life Lab Garden Resources](#)

[Picture Book List](#): Discover gardens and gardening through this list created by Surrey Schools Teacher-Librarian Lynne Powell.

[Discovery Education Video Resources](#): Compiled by Surrey Schools Teacher-Librarian Lynne Powell (login to DE necessary using your SurreySchools credentials). A simple search for school gardens within DE also produced good results.

[Growing Minds Weekly Newsletter Template](#): A weekly newsletter template that teachers could use to communicate home to parents/guardians about the learning in your school garden.

Safety

[Government of Canada, Guide to Poisonous Plants](#)

[Canadian Encyclopedia, Poisonous Plants](#)
[Government of Canada, Garden Safety](#)

Gardens Research

School-based community gardens: Re-establishing healthy relationships with food. Somerset S, Ball R, Flett M, Geissman

[Journal of the Home Economics Institute of Australia 2005; Vol. 12, No.2.](#)

[*The Benefits of Gardening and Food Growing for Health and Wellbeing](#) by By Garden Organic and Sustain - Gareth Davies, Maria Devereaux, Margi Lennartsson, Ulrich Schmutz and Sarah Williams

[Why School Gardens? Collective School Garden Network](#)

[Impact of School Gardening on Learning.](#) Frances Reed, Marian Morris, Rowena Passy, 2010.

[Think Eat Green at School:](#) Video resource explaining their collaborative research project between UBC's Centre for Sustainable food systems and VSB and City of Vancouver.

Help



RESOURCES

What's Growing?

[Planting Your Garden, The Collective School Garden Network](#)
[How to Start a Butterfly Garden](#)

Growing Food

[Growing Vegetables in School Gardens, RHS Campaign for School Gardening](#)

[Healthy Eating at School](#)
[Vegetable Planting Chart Coastal BC](#)

Fundraising

[Farm to School BC](#)
[Think Eat Green at School](#)
[Whole Foods Foundation](#)
[Evergreen Garden Grants](#)
[Healthy Schools Network](#)
[Co-Op Community Spaces](#)
[Tree Canada](#)
[McCreary Youth Action](#)
[Canada Post](#)
[Honda Foundation](#)
[Learning for a Sustainable Future](#)
[City of Surrey Neighbourhood Enhancement Grants](#)
[The Classroom Gardener maintains a list of \[School Garden Grants\]\(#\), many of which are listed above](#)

Professional Development:

[UBC Faculty of Education](#): The Department of Intergenerational Landed Learning at UBC offers a number of Professional Development workshops and directed studies for teachers.

[Megan Zeni Workshops](#): Megan is a BC teacher in the Richmond School District whose classroom is outside – year-round. She has developed PD resources and events for teachers. Her website has a blog listing of online school garden resources with the teacher in mind. She has also collated a listing of possible funders.

[Fresh Roots](#): A non-profit group focused on “cultivating engaging gardens and programs that catalyze healthy eating, ecological stewardship, and community celebration”.

[Environmental Youth Alliance](#): A non-profit group offering many youth leadership and professional development opportunities.

Trip Planning

[Plan a trip to ... A Rocha – South Surrey](#)
[Plan a trip to ... Surrey Nature Centre](#)
[Plan a trip to ... Honeybee Centre](#)
[Grow Potatoes: Spuds in Tubs](#)
[Learn about Daffodils: Planting a Promise](#)
[Grow space-flown tomato seeds in your classroom: Tomatosphere.org](#)
[Arrange a visit to your local Community Garden](#)
Find out about [Youth Invasive Plant Removals or Nature Work Parties – Ages 13-18](#)
[Surrey Biofuel Facility](#): Where biowaste is being transformed into natural gas right here in Surrey.
[City of Surrey Environment School Programs](#)

Help



GARDEN SAFETY GUIDELINES



Please post these guidelines in a prominent spot where they will be viewed by all staff who use the garden.

Garden must be free of hazards e.g. rubbish, water collections, garden tools, trip hazards etc.

A well-stocked first aid kit must be readily available in the garden.

Staff must be aware of any students with allergies to specific foods, plants or insects & who is able to administer treatment in case of emergency.

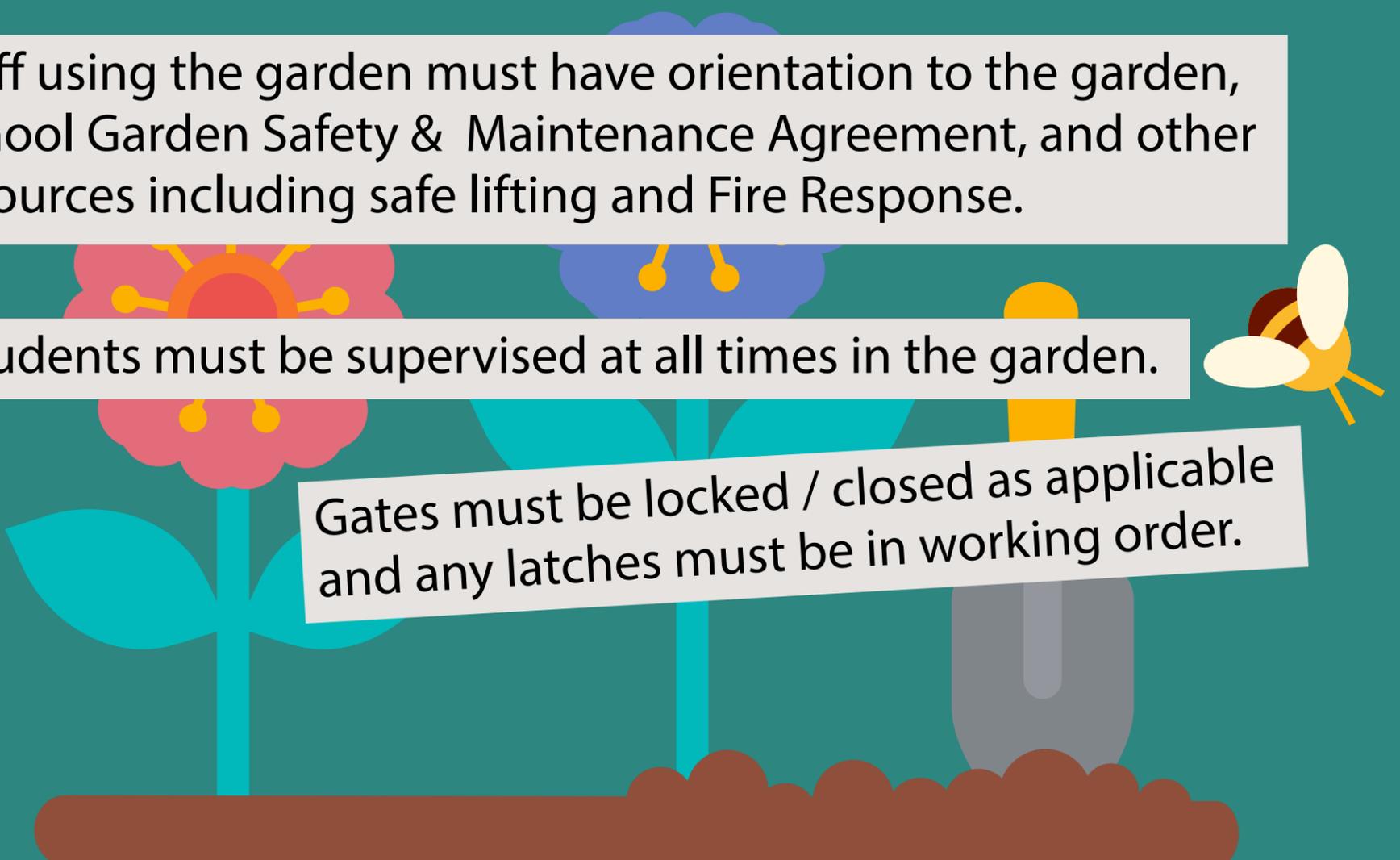
Tools must be in safe working order.

Monitor for and document the presence of animals, and properly remove contaminants.

Staff using the garden must have orientation to the garden, School Garden Safety & Maintenance Agreement, and other resources including safe lifting and Fire Response.

Students must be supervised at all times in the garden.

Gates must be locked / closed as applicable and any latches must be in working order.



FOOD SAFETY GUIDELINES



Please post these guidelines in a prominent spot where they will be viewed by all staff who use the garden.

One Staff person must have has taken the “Caring about Food Safety” course and must ensure guidelines and procedures are being followed.

Proper personal hygiene practices must be in place. All persons must wash hands thoroughly, with soap, before and after harvesting food for the public.

Persons who are currently ill or are known to be contagious must be prevented from working in the garden or handling any food.

Any product that has come into contact with potential sources of contamination (blood, bodily fluids, chemicals, broken glass, animal contact) must be properly disposed of as garbage, not compost.

Containers used to transport harvested items must be food-grade, properly cleaned, and in good condition.

Food contact surfaces must be kept clean and sanitized prior to use.

All fruits and vegetables must be rinsed under cool running water and a vegetable brush should be used to clean them.