



How to Grow a School Garden: A Complete Guide for Parents and Teachers

By Arden Bucklin-Sporer, Rachel Pringle

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“A school garden is a tremendously valuable tool to help young people turn book knowledge into real experience. This book is a must-have resource for anyone considering embarking on a youth gardening adventure.” —Mike Metallo, President, National Gardening Association

In this groundbreaking resource, two school garden pioneers offer parents, teachers, and school administrators everything they need to know to build school gardens and to develop the programs that support them. Today both schools and parents have a unique opportunity—and an increasing responsibility—to cultivate an awareness of our finite resources, to reinforce values of environmental stewardship, to help students understand concepts of nutrition and health, and to connect children to the natural world. What better way to do this than by engaging young people, their families, and teachers in the wondrous outdoor classroom that is their very own school garden?

It's all here: developing the concept, planning, fund-raising, organizing, designing the space, preparing the site, working with parents and schools, teaching in the garden, planting, harvesting, and even cooking, with kid-friendly recipes and year-round activities. Packed with strategies, to-do lists, sample letters, detailed lesson plans, and tricks of the trade from decades of experience developing school garden programs for grades K–8, this hands-on approach will make school garden projects accessible, inexpensive, and sustainable.

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Bucklin-Sporer and Pringle, gardeners and educators, bring extensive personal experience and skill sets to this excellent manual for teachers and parents interested in creating school gardens. With step-by-step tasks, advice on everything from raising funds to garden designs, materials lists, and lesson plans that connect garden activities to curriculums and meeting school standards, this unique guide paves the way for getting a garden off the ground, so to speak, in a yearlong overview that covers ideas for building planting beds, delicious recipes, and composting. The bounty of information is presented in ways that will generate excitement and provide inspiration for teachers and their volunteer partners. Bucklin-Sporer and Pringle are also comprehensive in their approach to providing much needed guidance for communities and schools that have already embarked on creating school gardens, yet require assistance in moving forward. And for those new to the concept, the authors will awaken readers to the critical aspects of teaching children organic-gardening principles, the delights and solace of the gardening experience, and how to nurture a child's understanding of ecology. --Alice Joyce

Review

"This book will be a well-thumbed resource in many school and public libraries. . . . Strongly recommended." —*Library Journal*

"This is my bible on starting a school garden." —*Huffington Post*

"Easy-to-read, informative, and visually pleasing—any parent or teacher considering a school garden will find a wealth of information in this book." —*American Gardener*

"[Introduces] the joys and benefits of digging in the dirt to kids who might not otherwise get the chance." —*Chicago Tribune*

"This terrific guide is filled with detailed, practical guidelines for organizing and running a school garden." —*SciTech Book News*

"Offers all the instruction necessary to plan for and maintain a school garden." —*Bookwatch*

"This book is a treasure trove of good advice and innovative ideas. From the usual 'what to grow' and 'how to garden' to using the garden as a teaching tool and creative starting point. . . . Fabulous resource for schools but also families who want to get more out of their patch of land." —*San Francisco Chronicle*

"The bounty of information is presented in ways that will generate excitement and provide inspiration. [An] excellent manual for teachers and parents." —*CoffeeMom*

"Fabulous resource for schools but also families who want to get more out of their patch of land." —*WhipUp.net*

"A practical, schematic guide to getting a school garden off the ground, with well-written advice for getting buy-in from a school's administration, how to fundraise effectively, and even how to organize volunteers on

the first day of garden-breaking.” —*Grist*

“As a former early childhood educator and one who gardened with her students, let me say that I wish this book would have existed when I was in the classroom. How to *Grow a School Garden* takes away the guesswork and provides tip after tip from two women who have many ears of school garden experience under their belts...This book is a must-read for anyone (parent or teachers) interested in bringing gardens to their own school community.” —*Rocky Mountain Land Library*

From the Back Cover

“*How to Grow a School Garden* is a valuable tool for creating rich learning experiences and helping children reconnect to the natural world. The guide is comprehensive yet simple to follow and full of inspirational ideas.” —Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*

“Finally, it’s here: a practical, concise blueprint for funding, building, planting, and maintaining a school garden. This book should be required reading for any teacher or parent who truly cares about raising a new generation of healthy eaters.” —Novella Carpenter, author of *Farm City: the Education of an Urban Farmer*

“At a time when we are in grave danger of boring our naturally curious children with drill-and-kill memorization, here is a powerful hands-on guide that will make learning come alive in the living laboratories of school gardens. Bravo Arden and Rachel for improving the learning landscape, even as you are promoting our children’s health!” —Delaine Eastin, California Superintendent of Public Instruction

Although school gardens may be large or small, they answer kids’ biggest questions: Where does my food come from? Is nature important to me? Can I work with others to make a place that is beautiful and a source of pride? With this book, you can help kids reclaim a piece of neglected play yard and transform it into an ecologically rich garden that nourishes children, parents, teachers, and your community for years to come:

- Plan the project
- Raise funds
- Work with school staff and community
- Design and prepare the space
- Plant and harvest
- Teach in the garden classroom year round
- Cook with students in the garden

Packed with strategies, to-do lists, detailed lesson plans, easy recipes, and tricks of the trade for grades K–8, this is the complete school-gardens handbook for parents, teachers, and administrators.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lisa Buffington:

Have you spare time to get a day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? Yep, you can choose the suitable activity to get spend your time. Any person spent their spare time to take a move, shopping, or went to the Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book titled How to Grow a School Garden: A Complete Guide for Parents and Teachers? Maybe it is to be best activity for you. You already know beside you can spend your time with the favorite's book, you can more intelligent than before. Do you agree

with it is opinion or you have different opinion?

Johnnie Lewis:

The event that you get from How to Grow a School Garden: A Complete Guide for Parents and Teachers will be the more deep you searching the information that hide in the words the more you get interested in reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to comprehend but How to Grow a School Garden: A Complete Guide for Parents and Teachers giving you excitement feeling of reading. The author conveys their point in particular way that can be understood by anyone who read the idea because the author of this guide is well-known enough. This particular book also makes your own vocabulary increase well. Making it easy to understand then can go with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We suggest you for having this specific How to Grow a School Garden: A Complete Guide for Parents and Teachers instantly.

Tabitha Devore:

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Chelsie Salls:

Reading can called head hangout, why? Because if you are reading a book mainly book entitled How to Grow a School Garden: A Complete Guide for Parents and Teachers your head will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each and every aspect that maybe unfamiliar for but surely might be your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a reserve then become one form conclusion and explanation that maybe you never get previous to. The How to Grow a School Garden: A Complete Guide for Parents and Teachers giving you an additional experience more than blown away your mind but also giving you useful facts for your better life on this era. So now let us show you the relaxing pattern this is your body and mind will probably be pleased when you are finished looking at it, like winning a sport. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

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