Starting Your School Garden

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Gardens are 90% Community and 10% Garden

• Build your community: teachers, parents, administrators, facilities staff, community members
• Plan in the fall and have plans in place by February.
• Grants to build gardens are few and far between
• Tap into the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program for technical information
Key Challenges

• Getting buy-in from school administration
• Planning for summer garden care
• Lack of gardening experience
• Continuity from year to year
Selecting the Site

- Water
- Sun
- Flat
- Access
RULES OF THUMB:

- Beds need to be three to four-feet wide. Kids have short arms.
- Skip the greenhouse.
- Use quality soil/compost.
Tools Needed in the Garden
Install Watering System

- Hand watering is hit and miss.
- Reduces summer care
- Regular watering promotes good growth
Plant For Spring And Fall

- Spring – Quick growing greens and cool season vegetables that will ripen before school is out: greens, lettuce, chard, radishes, spinach
- Fall – In the spring plant crops that will ripen after school starts up in the fall: potatoes, tomatoes, peppers, carrots, herbs, corn
- Don’t plant fussy vegetables – beans, summer squash, cukes, melons
Resources for Lesson Planning

- Cornell University
  - https://gardening.cals.cornell.edu/lessons/curricula/
- Kids Gardening
  - https://kidsgardening.org/
- Life Lab
  - https://www.lifelab.org/
- National Education Association