



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:

Larry Parrish:

The book *How to Grow a School Garden: A Complete Guide for Parents and Teachers* has a lot info on it. So when you check out this book you can get a lot of benefit. The book was written by the very famous author. Mcdougal makes some research previous to write this book. This specific book very easy to read you can find the point easily after scanning this book.

James Barclay:

This How to Grow a School Garden: A Complete Guide for Parents and Teachers is great book for you because the content which is full of information for you who else always deal with world and get to make decision every minute. This particular book reveal it facts accurately using great organize word or we can declare no rambling sentences within it. So if you are read that hurriedly you can have whole facts in it. Doesn't mean it only provides you with straight forward sentences but challenging core information with attractive delivering sentences. Having How to Grow a School Garden: A Complete Guide for Parents and Teachers in your hand like getting the world in your arm, details in it is not ridiculous one. We can say that no e-book that offer you world throughout ten or fifteen small right but this e-book already do that. So , this is good reading book. Hey there Mr. and Mrs. occupied do you still doubt which?

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