



Gardening resources for schools

Contents

- Educational and general resources
- Garden pest management
- Grants
- Native plants
- Pollinator gardens
- Sample garden projects
- Soil testing

Educational and general resources

[Big Green Jumpstart](#)

Resources for school gardens

[Green Schoolyards America](#)

Resources include schoolyard activity guides

[Greenhearted.org](#)

Resources and tips on integrating school gardens into education about sustainability

[Kids Gardening](#)

Resources about garden projects, lessons, and grants
Sign up online to receive a free monthly email update

[King County Go, Green Team! Blog post about gardening](#)

April 10, 2014 blog posting about steps to creating a school garden

[King County Master Gardener Foundation](#)

Resources about gardening along with instructional videos, plant tips, descriptions of demonstration gardens, and news about plant sales

[Natural Yard Care](#)

This King County website includes five steps to natural yard care

National Wildlife Federation [Schoolyard Habitats](#)

Information and resources about creating Schoolyard Habitats. Also see [educational resources](#).

[Out-Teach](#)

Hand-on, experiential outdoor learning, combined with remote learning. Creates learning gardens in low-income schools and trains teachers how to use learning gardens to improve student engagement and academic achievement.

[Oxbow Farm and Conservation Center](#)

This education center teaches children about organic farming and environmental conservation. Children see firsthand where their food comes from, where salmon spawn, and understand why we need to protect both. Other programs: Field trips for preschool to 5th grade students to teach about the six plant parts (roots, stems, leaves, flowers, fruits, seeds), soil, beneficial insects, worms at work; a tour for middle and high school students; and Farmer-in-the-School classroom workshops on how healthy people need to eat healthy plants grown in healthy soil.

[Seattle Tilth](#)

Gardening programs including tours and educator workshops

USDA Blog – [Start a School Garden](#)

Recommendations on how to create a school garden

[Washington Farm to School](#)

Information about school gardens including food safety in school gardens, and recipes and nutrition facts for serving Washington-grown food in schools

[Washington State University \(WSU\) King County Extension](#)

Free expert gardening advice and resources; connects schools with master gardeners Also see [Food Sense Nutrition Education](#), a WSU program funded by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program offering teaching resources about healthy eating for youth and adults with limited incomes. Schools qualify if they provide free and reduced meals to at least fifty percent of their students. In King County, the programs currently assist schools in **Auburn, Highline, Kent, and Renton school districts**. Families learn nutrition basics and buying strategies to help make healthy choices and sustain their food supply throughout each month.

Garden pest management

[Integrated Pest Management \(IPM\) in schools](#)

Information from Washington State University (WSU) about IPM in schools

[Pesticide Alternatives Worksheet](#)

Under "Teaching Aids," see worksheet that tests student's knowledge of pesticide labeling and safer gardening alternatives

[Washington State University Hortsense](#)

Information about specific plants, how to grow them, and how to deal with pests

[Yard Talk](#)

A King County natural gardening show that demonstrates how to easily care for yards and gardens in a way that's good for people, pets and the environment

Grants

[Cedar Grove Composting](#)

For schools participating in Cedar Grove Composting's organics collection program, Cedar Grove donates up to 10 yards of compost annually and donates one auction certificate per year. The standard auction donation is a certificate for one yard or 10 bags of compost picked up at a Cedar Grove facility. Email Karen Dawson at karend@cgcompost.com with any questions.

Cedar Grove also offers wholesale pricing to schools or districts that want more than 10 yards of compost or a different Cedar Grove soil product. **For wholesale price inquiries, contact Cedar Grove Composting customer service at 877-764-5748.**

For more information, visit <https://cedar-grove.com/school-soil-program>.

[National Agriculture in the Classroom - Teacher grants](#)

Also see [Teacher grant guidelines](#)

[The Fruit Tree Planting Foundation](#)

Nonprofit dedicated to planting edible, fruitful trees and plants to benefit the environment and its inhabitants. See [resources page](#) that includes information about grants. Primary mission is to plant and help others plant a collective total of 18 billion fruit trees worldwide (approximately three trees for every person) and to encourage their growth under organic standards. Provides resources and guidance to plant fruit trees and spearheads planting programs to enrich the environment, provide nutritious food sources for wild and rescued animals, and improve human health by bringing fresh, locally grown high quality fruits and vegetables into the lives of all people.

Visit <https://kidsgardening.org/garden-grants/> for a list of grants

[King County Wastewater Treatment Division grants](#)

Offers grants for storm water bio retention/bio filtration projects such as rain gardens. Also see [Re-Green the Green Grant program](#).

[Seattle Green Tables Food and Nutrition](#), Les Dames d'Escoffier, Seattle Chapter, offers grants to eligible organizations in Washington State for innovative solutions to providing healthy meals in schools, early learning and exposure to the garden-to-table (cafeteria) cycle, and education about cooking simple, healthy meals.

[Wild Ones: Seeds for Education Grant](#)

Offers native plant grants and helps locate experts and information specific to your area and garden project

Native plants

[Native Plant Resources for the Pacific Northwest](#)

This King County resource includes a guide to plants and a list of resources

[Washington Native Plant Society](#)

Offers resources (slide show, local plant sales, landscaping ideas) on Washington's native plants and provides an electronic platform for people to share their interest in native plants

Pollinator gardens

[BEEducated](#)

Green Team students at International Community School (*in Lake Washington School District*), a King County Green School, created this educational resource to help save the rapidly declining bee population. The students started a sustainable pollinator garden in a local Sammamish park and compiled a resource kit to help other schools plant pollinator gardens. In 2018-19, they assisted schools in their own district and Renton School District to establish school pollinator gardens. The group also collaborated with MIT developers on an app dedicated to raising awareness about the plight of bees.

[National Pollinator Garden Network](#)

Offers educational resources, lists of plants appropriate for pollinator gardens, and more. Increasing the number of pollinator-friendly gardens and landscapes will help revive the health of bees, butterflies, birds, bats and other pollinators across the country. The Network's goal is to help establish one million pollinator gardens.

Sample garden projects

[South Whidbey School District's Farm and Garden Program](#)

In 2013-14, the [Fresh Food on the Table](#) program was developed in partnership with Chartwells to enable school garden spaces to be used for growing and delivering produce to the school lunch programs at South Whidbey Academy, Langley Middle School, and South Whidbey Elementary School. South Whidbey School District is the first in the nation to do this successfully.

[St. Luke School's garden project](#)

St. Luke School, a King County Sustaining Green School, has a successful school garden. Also see pages 4 and 5 of the school's [success story](#) on the King County Green Schools Program website.

Soil testing

[King Conservation District](#)

Offers free soil testing for nutrients

[Washington State University \(WSU\) Soil Testing](#)

Guides and videos on how to collect and analyze soil samples.

July 2023