

# School and Community Gardens

Disclaimer: We are providing links to various websites containing information about School Gardens as a courtesy to the general public; however, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, School Nutrition Services section has not reviewed nor is responsible for the content on the following websites and does not endorse or promote any product or practice described or depicted on the website.

## [4-H Virtual Farm](#)

The objective of the 4-H Virtual Farm is to provide youth with an opportunity to learn basic agricultural concepts. The scope of the 4-H Virtual Farm project is specifically mirrored in the Standards of Learning.

## [American Heart Association \(AHA\) Teaching Gardens](#)

American Heart Association Teaching Gardens teach children in first through fifth grades how to plant seeds, nurture growing plants, harvest produce and ultimately understand the value of good eating habits.

## [Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project \(ASAP\) Growing Minds](#)

The Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project is a non-profit organization that supports farmers and rural communities by providing education, mentoring, promotion and Web resources, and community and policy development. ASAP has developed Growing Minds, which provides lesson plans, children's literature resources and information about creating school gardens, organizing farm field trips and purchasing local foods for schools.

## [California School Garden Network](#)

The curriculum section, compiled by the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources Garden-Based Learning Workgroup, provides over one hundred garden-based lessons to create, expand, and sustain garden-based learning experiences. It offers practical ideas and resources for every level of garden-based learning from sprouting seeds to understanding the food system.

## [FoodCorps](#)

FoodCorps is a non-profit national service organization that seeks to reverse childhood obesity by increasing vulnerable children's knowledge of, engagement with, and access to healthy food. The centerpiece is an AmeriCorps public service program that recruits young leaders for a year of service in high-obesity, limited-resource communities of need. Service members build and tend school gardens, conduct hands-on nutrition education, and facilitate Farm to School programming that brings high quality local food into public schools.

## [Garden-Based Learning Program](#)

The Garden-Based Learning Program is based in the Department of Horticulture at Cornell University. The Garden-Based Learning Program develops projects, activities, and other materials, as well as gardening content- and youth development-oriented support.

## [Green Education Foundation](#)

The Green Education Foundation (GEF) is a non-profit organization with a mission to provide educational

resources that promote sustainable, impactful pro-green behaviors in children, families and communities. GEF programs provide a hands-on component coupled with standards-based lessons that promote environmental sustainability and individual health and well-being.

### [Junior Master Gardener](#)

Junior Master Gardener (JMG) is a 4-H youth development program of the Cooperative Extension System. JMG encourages youths to be of service to others through service learning and leadership development projects and engages children in novel, “hands-on” group and individual learning experiences that promote a love of gardening, develop an appreciation for the environment, and cultivate the mind.

### [Kids Gardening](#)

The Kids Gardening Web site from the National Gardening Association provides tips, garden activities and lessons, success stories and information about funding for developing school and community gardens.

### [National Gardening Association](#)

Programs and initiatives of the non-profit National Gardening Association (NGA) highlight the opportunities for plant-based education in schools, communities, and backyards across the country. NGA serves as a bridge to connect people to gardening in five core fields: plant-based education, health and wellness, environmental stewardship, community development, and responsible home gardening.

### [Natural Learning Initiative](#)

The mission of the Natural Learning Initiative, based at North Carolina State University, is to help communities create stimulating places for play, learning, and environmental education.

### [N.C. Community Gardens](#)

The North Carolina Community Garden Partners offers this site to help citizens find a community garden nearby, learn how to start a new garden or find resources to support an existing one.

### [Project Learning Tree](#)

Project Learning Tree (PLT) is a pre-kindergarten through grade 12 environmental education program, developed by the American Forest Foundation, through which students learn environmental content (that correlates to national and state standards in science, social studies, language arts, math, and other subjects) and strengthen their critical thinking, team building, and problem solving skills. In North Carolina, PLT is sponsored by the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service and the N.C. Division of Forest Resources.

### [SEEDS](#)

SEEDS is a non-profit community garden whose goal is to teach people to care for the earth, themselves and each other through a variety of garden-based programs. SEEDlings, a free After School Program for grades 1-5, provides an educational environment with a focus on gardening, nature, exercise, and nutrition. Durham Inner-city Gardeners (DIG) empowers teens by teaching organic gardening, healthy food choices and food security values. The program emphasizes sustainable living and growing practices, ecological balance, and the natural recycling of organic materials for plant health and nourishment.

## [The Edible Schoolyard](#)

The Edible Schoolyard, in collaboration with Martin Luther King Junior Middle School, provides urban public-school students with a one-acre organic garden and a kitchen classroom. Using food systems as a unifying concept, students learn how to grow, harvest, and prepare nutritious seasonal produce.

## [USDA School Garden Resources](#)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has developed school garden educational resources for preschool and elementary students: Grow It! Try It! Like It!, Preschool Fun with Fruits and Vegetables, The Great Garden Detective Adventure and Dig In!. USDA is offering these interactive and exploratory lessons as a creative way to connect gardens with nutrition messages in the classroom, in the cafeteria or lunch room, and at home.