



YES! Project Guide

PLANTER BOXES

VEGETABLES

Category: Land Restoration and Gardening

Approximate Cost: \$250

Desired Results

Project Goal: Students will work with school, District and community to grow fresh food that has the potential to be used in the cafeteria.

UNDERSTANDINGS

Students will understand ...

- Where our food comes from and why the quality of the food matters.
- The benefits of locally grown food.
- How to build a planter box that is compatible with the type of food you want to grow.
- What types of food are best to grow in our Zone.
- How to design and build a planter box.
- How to plant and maintain a garden.
- How to harvest the food and reduce food waste.
- How to distribute and/or prepare the food for consumption.
- How to establish partners for growing and sharing the food.
- The importance of mentoring other on growing food

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- Are there any local foods currently being used in the schools?
- Who can support you in the community and District?
- Is the school cafeteria willing to participate?
- How can other school programs participate? Ag Ed, Industrial Ed and/or Family and Consumer Science?
- How can we grow the best food and the food that is most needed?
- Who in the community can support us and give us guidance?
- What do we want to do with the food that is grown?
- How can we involve other students and/or schools?

(teaching younger children how to grow food)

Knowledge and Skills Acquisition

Students will know...

- Where their food comes from
- Importance of locally grown food
- How to build relationships with other programs in the school
- How to design, build and plant a vegetable garden
- How to reach out to knowledgeable community members
- How to harvest and use the fresh produce

Students will be skilled at...

- Designing and building a planter box
- Designing and planting a vegetable garden
- Maintaining and caring for a garden
- Harvesting the produce from garden
- Distributing the produce in the schools and/or community
- Using fresh produce for quality food for consumption

Data

Impact Evidence

Qualitative (observations and descriptive data):

- Surveys (what fresh food would students like to eat)
- Planter Box Design
- Garden Design
- Produce Uses
- Picture Documentation
- What other groups were involved in the project?

Quantitative (numerical data):

- Initial Data: How much food is currently local?
- Dimensions of Planter Boxes
- How many plants and what types were planted?
- How much was the harvest?
- How many people participated in building the boxes and planting the food?
- How many people consumed the produce?
- What was the budget and cost analysis of the project?

Timeline - Approx. 1 School Calendar Year

Fall: Establish a working group with all the parties involved (Food Service, School Board, other school representatives, other school programs), formulate a one year plan.

Winter: Build Planter Boxes and design layout of garden

Spring: Starter plants, transplant late Spring (late May, early June), put compost/soil into beds and place in desired locations, formulate plan for care over the summer)

Summer: Use summer school programs and/or volunteers to care for garden.

Fall: Harvest produce and use in schools and/or create healthy eating recipes.

Process

1. Establish goal of planter boxes and garden
2. Establish a working group of various school and community members to help support goal
3. Formulate a one year timeline/plan based on the goal
4. Execute the timeline to include background information, planter box design and building, garden planting and maintenance, summer care and fall harvest.
5. Track impact of project during entire process
6. Continue meeting with working group to troubleshoot any issues and formulate long term plan for project.

Resources and Other Tips

Gardening for Beginners: <http://www.almanac.com/vegetable-garden-planning-for-beginners>

Tips:

- Plant common annuals and do a Plant Sale as a fundraiser
- Focus on just planter boxes and selling them as fundraiser
- Reach out to summer school programs/credit recovery program/community resources for assistance in summer
- Small Herb Boxes sell as fundraiser
- Put rollers on plant boxes to make them more mobile
<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/405394403929980375/>
- Work with custodians/Industrial Tech and/or Ag Ed to assist in building boxes
- Can add Raised Garden Frame to extend growing season <http://www.apartmenttherapy.com/diy-covered-greenhouse-garden-a-removable-cover-solution-to-protect-your-plants-198594>
- U of M Extension Services - Farm to Table <http://www.extension.umn.edu/food/farm-to-school/>
- School Garden Guide: <https://www.wholekidsfoundation.org/downloads/resources/foodcorps-wkf-school-garde-guide.pdf>
- Minnesota School Garden Guide (with Standards):
<https://minnesota.agclassroom.org/educator/garden/guide.pdf>