



GROWING HEALTHY SCHOOLS MONTH

Initiative of the Office of the State Superintendent of Education

Get Out and Garden

Growing Healthy Schools Month is the perfect time to engage students and the school community with the school garden. While instruction and regular maintenance happen throughout the year in school gardens, we hope this month inspires you to plan something special that will take your school garden to the next level. Below are some recommendations on seasonally- appropriate activities and projects:

ACTIVITY/ PROJECT

SUPPORTING RESOURCES

Teach a lesson in the garden

Use one of these [recommended garden-based curricula](#) to connect what you are doing in the classroom to the garden.

Start a School Garden

Start small and build community support early on. This and more in the [Checklist for Starting a School Garden](#).

Prepare for Strawberries and Salad Greens (May 2016)

Prep your strawberry bed now and you can expect a bumper harvest come May. Read [here](#) for more information on how prepare your bed for planting in early spring. Or plant something else; find out what to plant when [here](#).

Plant a tree

Planting a tree (fruit or shade) is a memorable experience for students. Check out the [Basic Tree Planting Guidelines](#) and [Apply for School Tree Planting Program](#) (Due November 1). Contact Priscilla Plumb pbocskor@caseytrees.org for more info.

Expand your garden

[Apply to be a RiverSmart School](#) Clean water starts in your schoolyard. RiverSmart Schools offer financial and technical assistance for schools to install practices such as rain gardens, BayScaping, pervious pavement, and rain cisterns to control stormwater pollution. Applications are due Oct 25. Contact Patricia Doan at patricia.doan@dc.gov with questions.

Check-up on your soil

Conduct a [simple nutrient test](#) of your soil and amend it as needed.

Staff your Garden Program

Prepare your [School Garden Grant](#) application which funds school garden coordinators.

If you would like assistance planning or implementing any of these projects, please contact Sam Ullery, School Garden Specialist at the Office of the State Superintendent of Education by emailing sam.ullery@dc.gov or visiting <http://osse.dc.gov/service/school-garden-program>

