

3rd Grade Spring Planting Instructions –Sweet Peas/Snap Peas

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Planter Garden Master Job Description

- Educate children on the life cycle of plants (seed, seedling, flower, vegetable/fruit, to seed again)
- Educate children on what plants need to grow (water, sun, air, soil)
- Teach students how to plant seeds, care for seedlings (water, thinning plants, pull weeds from root)
- Teach students how to wash/prepare produce to take home, give to teacher or for the produce stand to sell
- Label bed with type and variety of produce being grown (use masking tape on garden sign)
- Planter GMs are responsible for all aspects of bed maintenance
- Work with Lead GM to have students taste test vegetables grown
- Children will rotate about 2-3 times during the school year

Planting Notes

SUPPLIES (set out before students arrive): seed packets, gloves, square foot gardening (SFG) templates (crop type printed on template), 1 bag of potting soil, watering cans with rosettes

- Before your first visit to the garden, read your seed packet thoroughly and refer to it throughout the season. **We recommend you keep seed packets as they have important information on germination, thinning seedlings, days to harvest, etc...**
- Before kids come out to the garden, smooth down the soil with a hand rake around trellises.
- Greet kids, ask about their garden experience (what did they plant, how did it do, did they get to eat it, did it get sold, etc)
- Explain what a seed is: a baby plant sleeping inside the seed covering (a mini root, stem and leaves are actually inside the seed)
- Explain what a seed needs to 'wake up': ask the kids what they think it needs; answers are soil (which is plant food), sun, water, air

- Pass out seed packets and ask them to read different info on packet. i.e.: ask one kid what the 'planting depth' is, another how many days to 'germination' (waking up), another how many day to 'maturity', etc. Talk about 'expiration' date on seed packet and any other info that's there. Classes PLANT ½ OF BED PER VISIT so more children have planting experience. Remember to start from inner row.
- Line kids up; have them make one hand into a 'cup', place appropriate number of seeds in 'cup', go one at a time to bed and place 2-3 seeds on both sides of the trellis spaced about 2 inches apart.
- Kids return to end of the line when finished. GM LIGHTLY SPRINKLES potting soil over seeds to depth indicated on seed packet.
- Kids water the seed-bed with watering can that has a rosette (use this type so seeds are not displaced.)
- **Keep soil moist until seeds have germinated and seedling is established; 2 to 21 days (refer to seed packet for germination times).**
- **For seedlings: Have kids dig a hole about 2-3 inches ear trellis, deep enough so that the base of the plant is level with the ground. Carefully add soil in and around plant and gently pat soil. Water well.**

THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Seeds must be kept moist until they germinate, depending on the weather, this may require a morning and an afternoon watering. For seedlings, keep soil moist as well.
- If seeds do not germinate within expected germination time, re-seed – discuss with children why seeds did not grow
- Its helpful to label bed with variety of produce being grown

Growing Notes

- Soil – For planter beds, keep soil at ¾ bin height (use Kellogg Harvest Supreme or Amend by red work benches near barn)
- Use snail bait if you see snails (in shake cans in red barn on the shelves to the right)
- Once plants produce their second set of true leaves, **start thinning**. You can try the pencil method with children – wrapping the stem of the plant around the pencil and gently pull up. Refer to seed packet for appropriate spacing. You may have children use ruler or their finger widths, whichever is easiest.
- Once plants are established, have children mulch with straw, Kellogg mulch, or loose mulch near red barn. Make sure they mulch around plants, making sure it does not touch plant stem. This helps keep weeds at bay and keeps the soil moist.
- To make it easier, work with other class GMs and set up a watering schedule

Harvesting and Taste Testing

- 2nd, 3rd, 4th grades – We encourage you to have children harvest and sample vegetables they have grown during garden time. Have them wash any leftover produce for the Thursday produce sale. They maybe left on the covered workbenches near the red barn. Jennifer Whyte will contact you if she'd like to harvest some produce from your beds. We also encourage you to have children give harvested produce to their teachers.
- Work with the LEAD GM to teach what you learn from Whole Foods Cooking demos

3rd Grade Planting Timeline 2012-2013

WHEN	WHO	WHAT
January	GMs/Students	Continue to tend to carrots and kale, re-seed if necessary (contact Ellen for more seeds) WASH/PREPARE PRODUCE for Thursday produce sales (talk with Jennifer) Plant seedlings and peas seeds around trellis
February	Students	HARVEST, THIN SEEDLINGS, WEED, MULCH (make certain mulch doesn't touch stem of plant) & WATER, THEN PLANT other ½ of bed
	GMs/Students	WASH/PREPARE PRODUCE for Thursday produce sales (talk with Jennifer)
March	Students	HARVEST, THIN SEEDLINGS, WEED, MULCH (make certain mulch doesn't touch stem of plant) & WATER, THEN PLANT other ½ of bed
	GMs/Students	WASH/PREPARE PRODUCE for Thursday produce sales (talk with Jennifer)
April	Students	HARVEST, THIN SEEDLINGS, WEED, MULCH (make certain mulch doesn't touch stem of plant) & WATER
	GMs/Students	WASH/PREPARE PRODUCE for Thursday produce sales (talk with Jennifer)
May	GMs/Students	REMOVE ALL PLANTS AND WEEDS BY THE ROOT FROM YOUR BED WASH/PREPARE PRODUCE for Thursday produce sales (talk with Jennifer) COVER BED WITH A LAYER OF NEWSPAPER AND STRAW – put bed sleep for the summer REMOVE CLASS SIGN AND STORE IN SHED FOR SUMMER