

4th Grade Spring Planting Instructions

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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

Spring – Bean Teepees – See garden map for assigned teepee

SUPPLIES (set out before students arrive): seed packets, gloves, 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...**
- 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.
- Plant 2-3 bean seeds spaced 2 inches apart around poles. The bean seed should be planted about 1 inch deep. Water the seeds well.
- The bean seeds should germinate in about 7-10 days. Once the beans are tall enough to be handled, thin plants to 6 inches apart and tie them loosely to the bean teepee poles and supports . After this, they should be able to climb on their own. You can also pinch the tops of the bean plants to force them to branch out and grow more densely.
- Keep the bean plants well watered (bed c does have auto irrigation sprinklers like the raised beds) and be sure to harvest any beans that grow frequently. This will keep the beans plants producing and the bean vines healthy.
- **Keep soil moist until seeds have germinated and seedling is established; 7-10 days.**

THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Seeds must be kept moist until they germinate, depending on the weather, this may require a morning and an afternoon watering
- 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

- Use snail bait if you see snails (in shake cans in red barn on the shelves to the right)
- 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.

4th Grade Planting Timeline 2012-2013

WHEN	WHO	WHAT
Jan./Feb.	GMs/Students	Continue to tend to garlic, chard and beets, re-seed if necessary (contact Ellen if you need more seeds) WASH/PREPARE PRODUCE for Thursday produce sales (talk with Jennifer) Plant bean seeds around teepee poles
March	Students	HARVEST BEETS/CHARD, THIN ALL SEEDLINGS, WEED, MULCH (make certain mulch doesn't touch stem of plant) & WATER
April	GMs/Students	WASH/PREPARE PRODUCE for Thursday produce sales (talk with Jennifer)
	Students	HARVEST, 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) REMOVE CLASS SIGN AND STORE IN SHED FOR SUMMER