

1st Grade Spring Planting Instructions – Bush Beans and Gourds

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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 – Bush Beans (plant in beds) & Gourds (plant around trellises in beds B/D, see spring map for assigned area)

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 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 leaf rake – pull back irrigation hose if necessary and place back in bed
- 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
- Explain the *SFG or row planting concept*: SFG a lot of plants in a small space; show them the template, explain how to place it (inner row first); drop 2-3 seeds in each hole; move template to next space by flipping over.
- 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 in template openings. For bush beans, PLANT ½ OF BED PER VISIT so more children have planting experience. **GOURDS**: Gourds are vine plants and will grow up the metal trellises in beds B/D and (see spring map for your assigned trellis). Plant 2-3 seeds spaced 4-5 inches.
- 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).**

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
- It's 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**. Refer to seed packet for appropriate spacing. You may have children eat mini veggies that have been thinned.
- 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 help keep the soil moist
- To make it easier, work with other class GMs and set up a watering schedule

Harvesting and Taste Testing

- We encourage you to have children harvest and sample vegetables they have grown during garden time. Jennifer Whyte will contact you if she would like to harvest some produce from your beds. We also encourage you to have children give harvested produce to their teachers.

1st Grade Planting Timeline

WHEN	WHO	WHAT
January	Students/GMs	HARVEST/REMOVE ALL PLANTS
February	GMs Students	PREP BED FOR SPRING PLANTING. Before children come out, add SOIL AMENDMENTS (Harvest Supreme, or Planting Mix) only if bed is less than 3/4 th full. PLANT ½ BED with beans (use templates)
March	Students	HARVEST, THIN SEEDLINGS, WEED, MULCH (make certain mulch doesn't touch stem of plant) & WATER, THEN PLANT other ½ of bed with beans
April	Students	HARVEST, THIN SEEDLINGS, WEED, MULCH (make certain mulch doesn't touch stem of plant) & WATER
May	GMs/Students	REMOVE ALL PLANTS AND WEEDS BY THE ROOT FROM YOUR BED COVER BED WITH A LAYER OF NEWSPAPER AND STRAW – put bed sleep for the summer REMOVE CLASS SIGN AND STORE IN SHED FOR SUMMER