

GrowingGreat Garden Proposal
West Basin Water District Garden Pilot Program



Objective

Fund one food /native plant garden in one school in one school district.

Incorporate water messaging into existing curriculum.

Curriculum to include:

1. Water 101

- a. Where does our water come from?
- b. Supplies and limitations
- c. Water & Energy Link
- d. Local water conservation and sustainability programs

2. Water-Efficient Irrigation Practices and Technologies

- a. Water-efficient practices for food gardens
- b. Native Gardens
 - i. Benefits and Plant Types
- c. Water-Efficient Irrigation Devices
 - i. Drip irrigation, smart controllers, hand-watering, soils, plants, organic fertilizers, mulching, and composting
 - ii. Vegetable and native plant watering needs

3. Human Health & the Environment

- a. Bottled water vs. tap water
 - i. Safety regulations
 - ii. Misconceptions
- b. Plastic Bottle Issues
 - i. Landfills, pollution, resources
 - ii. Water vs. Processed Drinks

Growing Great recommendation is that we incorporate a water discussion in existing lessons as follows:

Garden Lessons

- 1) **Third Grade—Spring Planting—Three Sisters**—we already discuss how squash helps shade the other sisters roots to prevent water evaporation. This is also consistent with 3rd grade science standards about understanding the role of the environment in success of various organisms—
 - i. --water efficient plantings for vegetable gardens
 - ii. --water needs of vegetables and native plants
- 2) **Fourth Grade**—Fall is all about California agriculture so we can talk about the water needs of the plantings in the various regions
 - iii. --water efficient plantings for vegetable gardens
 - iv. --water needs of vegetables and native plants
 - v. Spring planting—Mission/Rancho Kitchen garden—focus on using natives for medicines and food for science standards of interdependence of organisms

- vi. --native garden benefits and plant types
- 3) **Fifth Grade**—they have a science standard about understanding watersheds and their local watershed—we could add this to the fall garden lesson and have them focus on experiments involving water usage. We could make a standard 5th grade science experiment using water.
- 4) **Lower Grades** - water into 1-2 grade levels, within one lesson per year. Water 101.

Classroom Nutrition Lessons

- 4. **Third – Fifth Grades** - Human Health & the Environment; much of this is already inbedded in our classroom nutrition lesson on Hydration and Elimination. We will revise this lesson to address the specific issues including
 - a. Bottled water vs. tap water
 - i. Safety regulations
 - ii. Misconceptions
 - b. Plastic Bottle Issues
 - i. Landfills, pollution, resources
 - ii. Water vs. Processed Drinks

Target School – Juan De Anza Elementary School in the Wiseburn School District in Hawthorne, CA. Wiseburn has been piloting our classroom nutrition program this year with great success. Wiseburn has a committed administration & staff and involved parents. They are anxious to build a garden. They have been investigating funding sources. They have identified a flat, sunny area that already has fencing & a water source.

Garden Costs

When designing from scratch we typically build 4' x 8' planter boxes with drip irrigation and natural pathways in between planters.

We estimate 2 classrooms per planter box. In a school of 500 students, this comes to about 12 planter boxes (2 per grade level kindergarten – 5th grade).

Our typical cost for installing this type of garden from scratch is **\$12,000**. This does not take into account donated materials or volunteer hours.

Curriculum Development Costs

All GrowingGreat curriculum is copyrighted.

Development costs for writing, producing and publishing the curriculum is estimated at **\$4,000** depending on current information available from WBWD.