



Resources & Materials for School Gardens

How Sustainable Food Center (SFC) can help:

- Provide comprehensive information about planning, building, and using school gardens in our publication *The School Farm* (\$15). Includes budget worksheet, grant opportunities, activities and curriculum ideas, central Texas gardening, and community organizing.
- Offer classes about basic organic gardening, composting, and seed saving, as well as *Teaching the Garden* trainings for teachers and *School Garden Mentor* trainings for volunteers.
- Provide seeds, transplants, and compost through our **Spread the Harvest** project. Participants (including schools) can get up to 1 cubic yard of compost per year, as well as transplants and seeds. In exchange, participants agree to share their harvest, as well as complete quarterly surveys to report on their harvest. Contact Jess for more information (512-236-0074 x105).
- Match School Garden Mentors to your school to assist with your school garden
- Lend tools from our tool lending library
- Lend books about Texas gardening and gardening with kids from our resource lending library
- Recruit volunteers for workdays
- Provide consultation
- Provide access to a network of local school garden groups, the **Austin School Garden Network** - www.austinsgn.org (including a listserv)

Other resources available:

- *Funding*
 - Donations (in-kind or monetary)
 - Fundraisers
 - Small grants (see *The School Farm*, www.austinsgn.org, www.communitygarden.org)
 - National Gardening Association, TX Department of Agriculture
 - Lowe's, Home Depot, local nurseries & organizations
- *Materials*
 - Soil, mulch, decomposed granite, and limestone bricks may be available through AISD. ***Garden project and materials request MUST be approved by school principal first!*** Once approval is given, an AISD staff person must submit a work order for the materials to Russ McElrath, AISD Grounds Foreman. Contact Russ at: Russell.McElrath@austinisd.org, (512) 414-3233.
 - Native plants may be available through Keep Austin Beautiful (KAB).
- *Volunteer networks*
 - Green Corn Project (GCP) - schools can apply to have GCP volunteers come and install a double-dug organic vegetable garden. Dig-Ins are in March/Apr and Sept/Oct. Go to www.greencornproject.org for more information.
 - Citizen Gardeners
 - Master Gardeners
 - American Youthworks
 - Permies (permaculturist group)
- *Tools*
 - KAB Tool Shack: <http://www.KeepAustinBeautiful.org/toolshack>. Download the tool request form, fill out to indicate what you need and when. For more information, contact Jessica at KAB: email Jessica@KeepAustinBeautiful.org or call 512.501.3633.
- *Educational opportunities*
 - Austin Organic Gardeners - monthly meetings with guest speakers
- *Curricula*
 - Junior Master Gardeners - via Travis County AgriLife Extension