



All Things Food and Growing Up Organic present...

HOW TO START AN ORGANIC SCHOOL GARDEN WORKSHOP

April 30th, 2012



Workshop Notes



Workshop Notes

Essentials to starting a school garden

- There must be a long-term, consistent commitment
- Funds: Approximately \$500
- Student/parent/staff buy-in. Involve students in the process as much as possible!

How Growing Up Organic (GUO) works

- GUO provides free garden workshops for students and staff, and free support towards building raised bed gardens. Schools pay GUO \$500.00, and GUO brings the wood, seeds, soil and other materials to the school. GUO staff help to build 3 raised-bed gardens with the students and school staff.
- GUO practices square-foot gardening with the students and aims to plant for a spring harvest celebration (e.g. salads) and fall harvest celebration (e.g. root vegetables).

Building the Garden

- Involve students as much as possible! It can take as little as 1.5 hours to build the garden beds with the students.

Materials used in a GUO garden

- 3x8 untreated cedar
- Biodegradable sheeting (for bottom of garden – to kill the grass)
- Topsoil/peat/compost mix
- Heritage seeds from the Cottage Gardener

Cost

- It costs approximately \$500.00 to begin a school garden consisting of 3 raised beds.

Summer Maintenance

- GUO recommends that school families help to maintain the garden 1x per week in the summer; these families can harvest the produce from the garden for themselves during their week. Other groups who can help to maintain the garden: local restaurant chefs, daycares, church groups, seniors, community groups

Putting the Garden “To Bed”

- Gardens are put to bed – mulched – at the end of October.

Miscellaneous

- Do not recommend planting tomatoes.
- Herb spiral idea:



Resources

- Growing Up Organic’s website and e-mail address:
www.growinguporganic.blogspot.com,
growinguporganic@gmail.com