

School Garden 101
Session 4
Agenda

- 3:30 Welcome
Collect documentation for completed assignments – ask two people to share about their assignment.
Q & A about last week’s session?
- 3:45 Lesson: Planning the Vegetable Garden
- 4:30 Break
- 4:45 Garden Planning Activity
- 5:30 Discussion: Thinking About Summer
- 6:00 Close

School Garden 101
Session 4: Planning the Vegetable Garden
Lesson
(60 minutes)

- I. Site selection

- II. Choosing what to grow
 - A. What will the students eat?
 - B. What will mature in our growing season?
 - C. Selecting varieties
 - 1. days to maturity
 - 2. space requirements
 - 3. disease resistance

- III. Garden layout
 - A. Growing beds vs. conventional rows
 - B. Design for crop rotation – crop families
 - C. Spacing ideas - wide rows, square foot gardening, intercropping

- IV. Garden planting and harvest timeline
 - A. Cool vs. warm season vegetables, seedlings vs. direct seed
 - B. Staggered planting
 - C. Succession planting

- V. Garden layout exercise – hands on

Publications provided:

Johnny's Selected Seeds current Catalogue
UMaine Cooperative Extension bulletin 2190: Vegetable Varieties for Maine Gardens
UMaine Cooperative Extension bulletin 2761: Gardening in Small Spaces
UMaine Cooperative Extension bulletin E4: Guidelines for Average Vegetable Yields
UMaine Cooperative Extension bulletin 2762: Growing Vegetables in Container Gardens
UMaine Cooperative Extension article: Planning a Home Vegetable Garden
UMaine Cooperative Extension article: Gardening with Raised Beds
Raised Bed vs. Conventional Garden Space Use Diagram
Average Dates of Last Spring and First Fall Occurrences of Frost
Common Vegetable Families
Satisfactory (and Optimal) Plant Growing Temperature Ranges
Garden Planning Chart
Square Foot Gardening Method

Recommended additional reference:

Hunt MB, Bortz B. 1986. *High Yield Gardening*. Emmaus, PA: Rodale Press.

Garden Layout Exercise

A. Crop information

1. Using the Garden Planning Chart as a worksheet, select five crops
2. For each crop, research the following using the Johnny's Selected Seeds catalogue:
 - a. Plant height
 - b. Distance between plants
 - c. Warm or cool weather crop
 - d. If it is started indoors, when is it started
 - e. When is it placed outdoors
 - f. Estimated harvest window (dates)

B. Make a garden plan

1. Imagine you have a 20' by 20' (400 square feet) garden
2. Decide the following and draw a diagram of:
 - a. Decide which direction is north
 - b. The lay out of your beds – bed sizing and orientation; use of pathways between beds
 - c. Select five crops out of the Johnny's Select Seed catalogue
 - d. Decide how much space you want to devote to each crop
 - e. Sketch where you would plant each crop on the drawing of your garden bed

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Discussion: Thinking About Summer – Facilitator Reference Sheet
(30 minutes)

Small group discussion:

Break up into planning groups from the same school and discuss the following questions. Ask one person from each group to capture notes.

1. Tasks and Roles Update

What upcoming tasks does your school garden need to accomplish?

Set a date for your next meeting: _____

2. Thinking About the Summer

What will you do to make sure the garden project is managed over the summer months? (i.e. curriculum, funding, maintenance, community involvement)

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Thinking About Summer Discussion Worksheet

School Name: _____

1. Tasks and Roles Update

What upcoming tasks does your school garden team need to accomplish?

Set a date for your next meeting: _____

2. Thinking About the Summer

What will you do to make sure the garden project is managed over the summer months? (i.e. curriculum, funding, maintenance, community involvement)