



BIG GREEN LESSONS

Seasonality: Pre-Kindergarten – 2nd Grade

Lesson Outcomes

In this lesson students will learn about warm and cool weather crops.

- Plants in our Learning Garden grow best in either warm or cool weather.
- Local food is only available during the season that it grows.

Standards Alignment

Next Generation Science Standards

- K-ESS3-1. Use a model to represent the relationship between the needs of different plants or animals (including humans) and the places they live.
- 1-LS3-1. Make observations to construct an evidence-based account that young plants and animals are like, but not exactly like, their parents.
- 2-LS4-1. Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats.

Common Core State Standards – English Language Arts

- SL.K.1. Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about kindergarten topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups.
- SL.K.3. Ask and answer questions in order to seek help, get information, or clarify something that is not understood.
- SL.K.6. Speak audibly and express thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly.
- SL.1.1. Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about grade 1 topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups.
- SL.1.3. Ask and answer questions about what a speaker says in order to gather additional information or clarify something that is not understood.
- SL.1.6. Produce complete sentences when appropriate to task and situation.
- SL.2.1. Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about grade 2 topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups.
- SL.2.3. Ask and answer questions about what a speaker says in order to clarify comprehension, gather additional information, or deepen understanding of a topic or issue.
- SL.2.6. Produce complete sentences when appropriate to task and situation in order to provide requested detail or clarification.



Materials and Preparation

- Warm and Cool Weather Crops, print or display on board
- Butcher paper
- Blank White Paper
- Coloring Material
- Tape or Glue
- Review lesson and familiarize yourself with your Learning Garden
- Optional: supplies for additional Learning Garden activities

Teacher Background

In gardening, we plant during two main growing seasons: warm and cool. The warm and cool weather growing seasons provide a time to grow different types of crops in your Learning Garden. Each region of the country will have their own parameters on what months of the year are considered cool or warm weather growing seasons. Many regions will have a winter season with cold temperatures and snow where crops cannot grow outside in your Learning Garden without additional protection, however, in some regions, you can grow year-round!

Growing crops in the appropriate season means they will taste better and grow bigger because they are receiving adequate warmth and sunlight. In addition, purchasing produce from your local grocery store while they are in season will ensure you are receiving the freshest and best tasting produce!

Review USDA's Seasonal Produce Guide for more general information:
<https://snaped.fns.usda.gov/nutrition-through-seasons/seasonal-produce>

Introduction

Spend time discussing the following introductory questions:

- What are the four seasons?
- What is the weather like (in your region) during each of these seasons?
- What season(s) can be classified as a warm weather growing season?
- What season(s) can be classified as a cool weather growing season?
- What season(s), if any, can we not grow any crops during?

Activity

1. Welcome your students to the Learning Garden and line students up along one side. Stand on the opposite side of the Learning Garden so you can address the entire group.
2. Ask students if they know what they will be doing in the Learning Garden for the day's lesson. Let them know they will be making a list of plants growing in your Learning Garden!
3. Invite your students to explore the Learning Garden and to look for plants they can identify. Give students 3-5 minutes to explore the garden. Once finished, bring students back together and review their findings.



4. Have students raise their hand and share what plants are currently growing in the Learning Garden. If students cannot identify all of the plants, help them identify the rest. While they are sharing, create a list that will be used inside the classroom.
5. Return inside to the classroom and have the students return to their desks. Write or post the list of Learning Garden plants on the board for everyone to see. Let your students know you will now be learning about warm and cool weather plants.
6. Show the Warm and Cool Weather Crops document or distribute for students to review. Go through the different plants on each page and discuss with your students.
7. During this time, review with students the importance of gardening and planting crop in the appropriate growing season, relate it back to produce tasting the best and grow bigger when it's grown at the appropriate time! In addition, connect this back to grocery shopping and how you can buy produce at the grocery store when it is seasonally ready, assuring it will taste the best and be the freshest!
8. Review your Learning Garden plants and add those plants to the Warm and Cool Weather Crops document.
9. Once you have reviewed warm and cool weather crops, let your students know that they will be making two drawings. The first drawing will be a picture of their favorite warm weather crop and the second drawing will be a picture of their favorite cool weather crop.
10. Distribute blank white paper to each student. Give students time to finish both drawings and tape or glue them to a large piece of butcher paper. Label one side We Love Cool Weather Plants! And the other side We Love Warm Weather Plants!

Conclusion

Have students share key parts of the day's activity and review the Lesson Outcomes. Students should clean-up the Learning Garden as needed.

Additional Learning Garden Activities

Extend your Learning Garden experience and have your students participate in any of the following Learning Garden activities as appropriate. Activities can include planting, watering, weeding, and harvesting.

