Back-to-School Learning Garden Workshop
Workshop Agenda

Welcome! Sign in and QA Note Cards

Introductions, and Our Food Roots and Fruits

Tasting Activities: Farm Stands and Grain Bowls

Fall Garden Plan Overview

Garden Skills: Ongoing Harvesting & Planting and Harvest Tracking

Break Out Sessions
   Transitioning the Garden from Summer to Fall

Goals for the Year

Evaluations, Lunch, and Materials Pickup
Mission and Vision: Why do we do this work?
GARDENS + PROGRAM

BIGCHANGE

Big Green builds a healthier future for kids by connecting them to real food through a nationwide network of Learning Gardens and food literacy programs.
Our Food Roots & Fruits

What is one memory you have of food that connects you to your roots?

What is one food memory that you would like to grow in the future?
“I realized very early the power of food to evoke memory, to bring people together, to transport you to other places…”

Jose Andres, Chef
Farm Stands
Grain Bowls Preparation

Work in groups to prepare your grain bowls.

Some ingredients have been prepped for you at your tables.

2 members from your group will need to pick up other ingredients from the Farm Stand:

- 1 bunch of Kale
- 1 Cucumber

Use the task cards provided at each of your tables as a guide to prep and use each ingredient.
Plant-Part Grain Bowls Diagram
Breakout Sessions
Transitioning from Summer to Fall
FALL SALAD GARDEN GUIDE

Planting Date: Sept 1
Tokyo Bekana Mustard Greens Seeds
- 45 days to maturity
Planting: 4" spacing
Fall Harvest Date: Oct 20 - Nov 1
Provider Bean Seeds - 60 days to maturity
Planting: 4" spacing
Fall Harvest Date: Oct 20 - Nov 1
Cherriette Radish Seeds - 25 days to maturity
Spacing: 2 inches
Fall Harvest Window: Sept 25 - Oct 10
Seaside Spinach Seeds - 50 days to maturity
Seeding: Broadcast seeded to 3" spacing
Fall Harvest Date: Oct 20 - Nov 1
Cilantro Seeds - 35 days to maturity
Planting: 3" spacing
Fall Harvest Date: Oct 20 - Nov 1
Dwarf Grey Sugar Snap Pea Seeds
30 days to maturity (as pea shoots)
Seeding: Broadcast seed to 2" spacing
Pea Shoot Harvest Window: Oct 1 - Oct 30
Red Russian and Siberian Kale Seeds
40 days to maturity
Seeding: Broadcast seeding to 1/2 inch spacing
Fall Harvest Window: Oct 10 - Nov 1
## Planting Timing

**CLIMATE AND SEASON**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLANTING DATE:</th>
<th>September 1st</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AVERAGE FIRST FROST:</td>
<td>October 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAY LENGTH (SEPT):</td>
<td>13h 07m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAY LENGTH (OCT):</td>
<td>10hr 23m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZONE:</td>
<td>5b</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| AVERAGE HIGH:          | 47 (Nov)      |
| AVERAGE LOW:           | 34 (Nov)      |
| AVERAGE RAINFALL:      | 2.2” (Nov)    |
| AVERAGE SNOWFALL:      | 1.2” (Nov)    |

- **73 (Sept)**
- **61 (Oct)**
- **58 (Sept)**
- **47 (Oct)**
- **2.78” (Sept)**
- **2.8” (Oct)**
- **0” (Sept)**
- **1” (Oct)**
Johnny’s Seed Bags

- Seeds for the whole year
- This year they are in bags!
- Storage: Indoors, dry and relatively cool
Rolling Planting and Harvesting

- Gradual transition from summer to fall garden
- Weekly visual assessments of the garden
- Fill in as space becomes available
- Harvest as crops are ready: not necessarily all at the same time
Making Space

Remove:

Cover Crops

Diseased/pest-infested crops

Fruits: no flowers

Leaves: bolted
Making Space

Harvest: summer crops
Making Space

Keep: anything healthy!

Could include: greens, popcorn, potatoes, peppers, etc.
Tracking Your Harvest

- Understand how much your garden produces
- Share your accomplishments with your school and community
- Increase your harvests each year
Online Harvest Tracking Found HERE
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VYWSYQC
Spring 2019 Harvest Data:

TOTAL

2708 lbs
26,753 servings!

SPINACH

361 lbs
$1,382.00

83 Schools Reported Harvests!
Spring Harvest Shout Outs!

Mollison Elementary!
Harvested over **160 pounds** of veggies from their garden this spring!

Kinzie Elementary!
Harvested **4 times** throughout the spring season!

Brighton Park Elementary!
Over **100 students** participated in their school harvest day!

Farnsworth Elementary!
Harvested over **1500 servings** for students!
Questions?
Tut tut.... it looks like rain
Prepare the Soil

- Summer crops are heavy feeders
- Replenish the soil with compost and fertilizer
Planting Fall Crops

Plant right away:
• Bean and pea seeds

As space allows:
• Plant remaining fall seeds
Harvesting Sweet Potatoes
3 Easy Steps!

For those of you who grew sweet potatoes, please join us for tips on harvest and storage.
Step 1---Loosen the Soil

Use a digging fork or a shovel to loosen the soil around the sweet potatoes. Students can loosen soil with their hands.
Step 2—Unearth the Roots

Gently uncover the potatoes and bring to the surface. Do not wash.
Step 3—Cure and Store

Sweet potatoes need to sit in a warm place (85 degrees) with high humidity for 7-10 days. After that, store at 55 degrees. Do not refrigerate.
Popcorn

- Encourage pollination
- DTM is 112 days (3.5-4 months)
- Harvesting
  - Husks = drying out
  - Kernels = fully mature (hard and glossy)
- Allow kernels to dry out for several weeks before popping!
Planning for the Fall Season
Planning your Fall in the Garden
Seasonal Planning Tool - Fall 2019

List Garden Team Members

Choose a Produce Consumption Method for your harvests

Planting and Harvest Windows
Put some dates on the calendar!

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Please take a photo of this sheet and send it to your Garden Educator to help support your planning!
Sample Goals

• This semester, we will expand our garden team to include 4 teachers.

• This year, we will serve food in the cafeteria for the first time.

• This growing season, we will water 3 times each week and include three classrooms.

• This Fall, we will lead a planting day on our own and include 3 classrooms.

• This school year, our school will prepare 4 recipes in classrooms using garden produce.
Reflection Questions:

What went well last year?

What were some challenges?

What are some goals for this year?
Thanks to...
Upcoming Workshop Schedule

Up next! Winter Learning Garden Workshop
October 22, 23, and 24
4:30-6:30pm

NEW! The Grain Chain Workshop: Regenerative Agriculture in Your Learning Garden
February 5 and 6
4:30-6:30pm

Spring Learning Garden Workshop
March 17, 18, and 19
4:30-6:30pm

Summer Learning Garden Workshop
May 19, 20, and 21
4:30-6:30pm
Wrap Up & Evaluations

- Cooking Kits Sign ups
- Evaluations – turn in at farm stand!
- Supply pick up
  - Seed box
  - Fertilizer
  - Kitchen Kit

Thanks for coming!

Save the date:
**Winter Workshops**
October 22nd-24th