

School Gardening Grants

Grant funds are available to build school gardens for fun and education.

Who can apply: Available for public schools in the Tempe and Kyrene school districts in grades K-12. Schools with existing gardens qualify.



Funding: Schools participating in this partnership can receive as much as \$ 1000 in grant money for implementing a selected project. Funding is limited; applications will be reviewed on a first-come first-served basis.

Criteria: Participating schools should demonstrate water conservation techniques best suited to their selected project. Applicants are asked to submit a basic garden plan with an appropriate budget. Grant money is not to be used for contracted labor, however, can be used for the purchase of plant material, hardware and other irrigation-related materials.

Deliverables: Submit all receipts for items purchased. Applicants are also asked to submit reports from their students describing their gardening experiences using water as a resource. Incorporation of water conservation ideas and practices are a plus. Additionally, at the end of the school year, faculties are asked to submit a letter on school letterhead detailing the effectiveness and failures of the project. Photographs of any aspect of the project would be appreciated.

Limited horticultural assistance will be provided upon request. If you have questions, please contact the City of Tempe, Water Conservation Program.

Check our garden ideas:



Example	Description	Layout	Irrigation	Timing	Plant material
Paleo Garden	When cycads and dinosaurs roamed Arizona, Paleo gardens abounded. Planting a Paleo garden introduces students to various concepts of paleobotany and living fossils. With Arizona's rich Triassic history (e.g., Petrified Forest), this garden is a natural.	An existing shaded area would be ideal for this project. Considering the unique qualities of living fossils, shade is essential.	Careful attention to irrigation is critical. Positioned in an existing shaded shrub bed or below a large tree would be an effective measure to conserve water and provide the needed filtered shade for some of the plants suited for the Paleo garden.		Cycads such as <i>Zamia</i> , <i>Cycas</i> , <i>Dioon</i> and many more. <i>Equisetum</i> (Horsetail), <i>Ginkgo</i> , <i>Podocarpus</i> (Yew Pine).
Salsa Garden	Planting a Salsa Garden provides a festive harvest with salsa and chips as the main course. Months of labor over peppers and onions pays off in this unique cultural experiment.	For success, only a limited amount of space is required. A planter 4X10, 6X6, under an existing tree, or in an old flower bed, even in the existing landscape.	A garden hose or existing irrigation can be utilized, and if time permits, jugs of water can supplement the balance. Careful contouring of the soil will assist in flooding and catching of the water.		Onions, Peppers, Tomatoes, Cilantro, Jalapenos, Parsley.
Medicinal Garden	It is said that 10% of our GNP goes towards medicine; this makes the manufacturing of drugs the largest single industry in the country. By implementing a medicinal garden, students can gain an understanding of where and how holistic medicines are derived. Further, they will learn to appreciate the highly specialized plant biomes, like those of the Southwest, that furnish such resources.	Considering the growth forms of the suggested plants, ample space is preferred. This project should be devoted to a turf-free area approximately 10x10 ft. or more.	The xeric nature of this garden would lend itself well to drip irrigation; however, in the absence of existing irrigation, manual flooding will be sufficient.		Prickly Pear, Aloe sp., Agave sp., Jatropha sp., Buckwheat, Texas Sage, Desert Lavender, Brittle Bush, Mallow, Yucca sp., Sage, Yellow Trumpet, Hackberry, Desert Senna, Desert Willow, Jojoba, Desert Barberry, Ephedra, Creosote Bush
Thornless Cactus Garden	Utilizing the vast varieties of spineless succulents, this cactus garden will demonstrate cacti's unique adaptations to the desert environment without risk of injury. Further, this project emphasizes the concept of xeriscape principles when applied to gardening.	A turf-free area with full or partial sun is essential for optimum growth. This garden can be constructed in an area already devoted to desert landscaping or created in a new area.	Ideally, flood basin irrigation supplied by students would prevent rot usually associated with existing irrigation systems.		Totem Pole Cactus, Twisted night-blooming Cereus, Ice Plant, <i>Opuntia ficus – indica</i> , Slipper Plant, Pine-cone Cactus, <i>Aloe</i> sp., Pencil Tree, Octopus Agave, Hesperaloes



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Herb Garden	Numerous species of herbs offer cooks delight, and when combined with water conservation, offer a unique insight. Readily available in small containers, this herb garden project can be managed without difficulty.	Most herbs are suited to container growth and would favor being grown in existing raised beds or, if limited on space, can also be planted in clay or wooden pots. Partial shade is required initially, but once established, in the winter months full sun shouldn't be a problem.	Irrigations can be specific to particular species so careful attention must be made to frequency and depth. Well-drained containers also assist in removal of salts and excess water. Beware when connecting to existing irrigation systems with incompatible irrigation schedules.	Late fall into winter.	Chives, Parsley, Thyme, Rosemary, Dill, Garlic, Sage, Sweet Basil, Sweet Marjoram, Bay Laurel, Cumin, Mint.
Vegetable Garden	Kids and vegetables have a special connection. This popular garden project would bring them closer than ever. With this hands-on approach to gardening, students can appreciate the value of proper watering, harvesting and eating of fine vegetables.	Fall is best for certain varieties, so careful selection can assure reasonable success. Good soil preparation is also essential for optimum yield. Planting in rows will assist in irrigating. As prescribed in other garden projects, a hose is best suited to the task; however, if available, an existing irrigation connection can reduce the manual labor of watering.		September into October	Broccoli, Carrots, Lettuce, Spinach, Brussels Sprouts, Cauliflower, Onions, Turnips, Cabbage, Celery, Radishes, Leek.
Butterfly Garden	Butterfly gardens are designed primarily with one goal in mind - attracting butterflies. However, a second learning objective can be met by using drought-tolerant plants and demonstrating the concepts of xeriscaping.	Careful attention has to be given to placement and selection. Food for both larvae and adult butterflies should be provided. Multiple plantings of one species offer greater recognition of a potential food source. When possible, plant in a sunny location with a water source for the butterflies.	Drip irrigation is optimum, however, when not possible supplemental watering can be achieved by flooding with a garden hose or bucket.	Any time	Butterfly Mist, Red Bird-of-Paradise, <i>Lantana</i> sp., Fern Acacia, Bee Bush, Baja Fairy Duster, Hackberry, Eupatorium, Pineleaf Milkweed, Wolfberry, Golden Dyssofia.



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Wildflower Garden	More challenging than an ordinary desert garden, wildflower gardens can be created solely from seed. Careful attention to site conditions is necessary to make this garden bloom. This project covers the full circle of a plant's life from seed to flower.	Bare dirt with good drainage will produce excellent results if diligence prevails. An area in full sun is fine for these Sonoran Desert natives. Preferably, this area should be free of weeds and landscaping that may compete for water and nutrients	Initially, water frequently to help germinate the seeds; as wildflowers grow, cut water back gradually. Best if small area is watered by hand using garden hose and then supplemented by winter rains. Flat contouring will allow uniform coverage.		Verbena, Desert Marigold, Cosmos, Datura, Bluedicks, Purple Rock, Mexican Poppy, Blue Flax, Lupine, Penstemon, Sunflower, Desert Senna, Mallow, Prickly Poppy, Yellow Cups, Morning Glory, Mexican Hat Thistle. Useful Link: http://www.bbg.org/gardening/article/wildflower_fever/
Flower Garden	Cooler temperatures provide more colorful garden opportunities for students and teachers. Installed from seed or flats, flower gardens are an easy and fast solution to the otherwise labor intensive garden project.	Creating a flowerbed is mostly a matter of taste; however, a few rules of thumb do apply. Always try and plant flowers in descending heights, this allows sufficient light and maximum visibility of color. Also, planting in rows provides more uniform irrigation. When possible, organic matter should be added for better moisture retention and nutrients.	Furrows and flooding maximize water distribution throughout the bed. Established flowerbeds can be watered every 2 to 3 days, depending on temperatures and soil. Not every growing situation is the same. When at all possible, students should hand water.	Generally after late October into fall.	Marigolds, Pansies, Snapdragon, Daisy, Portulaca, Alyssum, Amaranth, Sunflower, Zinnia. Depending on availability substitutions will inevitably be necessary.

or choose your own,

http://scene.asu.edu/habitat/design_manual/design_manual.pdf

<http://ag.arizona.edu/maricopa/garden/html/youth/youth.htm>

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