

What's Growing On?

Volume 2: APRIL 2022



Spring planting at Lucy N Holman Elementary School

- Be sure to check out our website: njagsociety.org. You will see many changes!
- All the links should work...fingers crossed!
- Please let me know what you think or if you can't find something!

Welcome Spring!

Hi friends!

April is here and it is time for our spring gardening to begin. The spring deliveries are wrapping up this week. Just about everyone has received their seeds for spring, summer, and fall gardens and the spring plugs! The only schools that may not have received their plugs and seeds yet are the schools who do not have garden beds set up. If your school is just building your beds, please let me know when you are ready for your plugs, and I will get them to you!

Upcoming Events

April is National Gardening Month

April 13 – Plant Appreciation Day

April 19- Garlic Day

April 22 – Earth Day

Mid-May: Summer Plugs to be delivered

Spring may be the busiest time in our spring gardens! There is just so much to do. One of the most important things is to re-establish garden rules and routines with your students. The time spent will be well worth it in the long run.

Here are some tips for the garden classroom:

Be sure that students always have clear expectations of their tasks when visiting the garden. Independent tasks for students may include: watering, weeding, mapping the garden, going on scavenger hunts, observing habitats, digging (in a designated area), sketching, and journaling.

If you have the space, you may want to consider adding a “digging pit.” A digging pit is an area that is used only for digging. Nothing has been planted in it, so kids are able to dig and there are no worries about disturbing any seeds or seedlings.

Promote your school garden!

Have students help you! A great way to promote your school garden is to produce a newsletter for parents so they know what is happening. You can have students work in teams to write “news” articles about what’s happening in the school garden. Recipes, photographs, art projects and poetry can be shared. Maybe your language arts and technology teachers could help you plan something like this!

GARLIC MONTH?

Yes, April is Garlic month. However, now is not the time to plant or harvest garlic. Garlic should be planted in the late fall and can be harvested in June. Mark your November calendar so you remember to plant it! Garlic is a great natural pesticide!



New Video Content:

[National Gardening Month-](#)

featuring the book,
Anywhere Farm

[Grow Happy!](#)

featuring the book; a great
SEL book



I have always been more of a flower gardener than a vegetable gardener; I am learning along with you. This is a shot of one of my backyard gardens.

What's growing on with LTG?

Moving forward, *Learning Through Gardening*, is looking to continue to support teachers as school gardens are being built. Video lessons will continue to be made and highlighted on newsletters and will be found on the website.

The plan is to continue this monthly newsletter; and even expand upon it. I would love to have some sort of question/answer section, a section on NJ farmers and field trips (including virtual). I would also like to include a "Spotlight" Garden. I thought it would be fun for us to share our gardens and ideas with each other. If you would like to volunteer and have your school be our first "Spotlight" Garden, please let me know.

Additionally, I am in the planning stages of this year's Best Practice Workshop which will be scheduled in the Fall. I will be emailing you a survey link to help me plan our day.

Plugs for summer gardening will be sent to schools who requested them mid-May. All schools have received their seed delivery. These seeds should last for all three of this year's garden season.

I think that's it for now! Hoping all your gardens stay green!

Earth Day in the Garden? Plant Seeds!

Where can you get free plants and seeds?

Wintersown.org - offers free seeds. It is a non-profit organization.

CheapSeeds - offer the plant seeds at meager prices of great quality.

Also check with local markets or nurseries ; they may be willing to make a donation?

Check out these cool websites:

[Lessons from the Garden - Earth Day](#)

[Earth Day Fun \(kidsgardening.org\)](http://EarthDayFun(kidsgardening.org))

[Best Earth Day 2022 Activities for School Kids & Adults | Earth Reminder](#)



Growing is Knowing!

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