



PLANNING YOUR SCHOOL GARDEN

SITE SELECTION

When creating an outdoor garden, there are many environmental factors to consider. Before committing to a location, consider these four factors:

LAND:

A first step is to have a soil analysis completed. This can be completed by your local Cooperative Extension for a full analysis. Also take into consideration the location, for example, if the location is on a steep hill, your garden could get washed away by the rain.

SUN:

Sunlight is essential and should be a major consideration when choosing a garden site. Most outdoor plants such as fruits and vegetables need six to eight hours of full sunlight daily. When considering a location, look for large trees or buildings that might cast a shadow on your garden. Make sure you check the location throughout the day to correctly assess how much light the site receives.

WATER:

Access to a consistent water source is very important when it comes to considering your site. You need easy access to water; spigots near the garden space are ideal. Think about how far students can drag hoses or carry buckets.

PLACEMENT:

While keeping in mind your soil, sun, and water needs also pay close attention to where you place your school garden. Consider the amount of time it will take to get to the garden and back. A long distance may be a barrier to accessing the garden on a regular basis.

ACCESS:

Take into account the following items when placing or filling your garden:

- Make sure that there is enough room between each raised bed in order for students to work easily in each plot at the same time.
- Consult with the custodial staff for the space they will need to move their lawn mowing equipment.
- Make paths wide enough to accommodate wheelchairs.