

# New Jersey Agricultural Society



## LEARNING THROUGH GARDENING

### 2022 SCHOOL GARDEN GRANT APPLICATION

The mission of the New Jersey Agricultural Society's *Learning Through Gardening* program is to give New Jersey preschools and elementary schools materials to build and maintain vegetable gardens, and to provide teachers with curriculum and training to use the gardens as outdoor classrooms where they can teach all subjects. A school garden gives children the opportunity to learn where their food comes from, how it grows, and that a healthy diet begins with fresh fruits and vegetables.

We offer two types of garden grants. A **school garden grant** is awarded to schools planning to launch a school-wide gardening program during school hours. A **garden training grant** is awarded to schools that already have a garden and want to learn to use it to teach core curriculum or to schools that want to revive a neglected garden. This application is for a **school garden grant**.

***We invite you to complete a grant application and return it by February 18, 2022***

***by email to:***

***[learnthroughgardening@gmail.com](mailto:learnthroughgardening@gmail.com)***

***or by mail to:***

***New Jersey Agricultural Society~LTG, 1340 Zeppelin Avenue, Whiting, NJ 08759.***

***All applicants will be notified of their grant status in April 2022.***

***Garden materials will be delivered in Spring 2022 with school gardening beginning in September 2022.***

**As a recipient of a *Learning Through Gardening* garden grant, your school will receive:**

- **Materials to build a garden including: six 4' by 8' raised garden beds, soil to fill the beds, two class sets of garden hand tools, two hoses, and two composting bins. Three raised beds are delivered in the first year and three in the second year.**
- **Two compost bins and composting training.**
- **Vegetable seedlings and seeds for three growing seasons each year: fall, spring, and summer.**
- **A garden kick-off assembly to introduce the garden and get the entire school community excited about gardening.**
- **An introductory garden-teaching workshop held at your school to show staff how to manage and maintain the garden, and how to use it to teach all subjects.**
- **Lesson plans to coordinate your outdoor garden experience across the curriculum.**
- **A garden-teaching Best Practices Workshop.**
- **Seeds and supplies for indoor agriculture lessons during three winter months.**
- **Access at any time to gardening and garden-teaching assistance from the *Learning Through Gardening* program director.**

## Please carefully review the following grant requirements:

- Learning Through Gardening grants are awarded for **fruit and vegetable gardens only**. While other types of gardens such as sensory, pollinator, or native plant gardens have many benefits, the goal of the New Jersey Agricultural Society is to show children how food is grown.
- Learning Through Gardening grants are awarded to schools planning to launch a **school-wide** gardening program integrated with the core curriculum. Grants are not awarded to schools that intend to use the garden solely for after-school or club activities.
- Grant recipients must plan for the garden to be used by **at least two grade levels** during the first year, and show plans to expand the garden's use by **one additional grade level** in the second year.
- A garden management committee of **at least six** members must be formed **before** an application is submitted. The garden committee must include at least three teachers from two different grade levels. Garden committees may also include administrators, additional teachers, custodians, cafeteria managers, parents, and community representatives. At least one committee member must serve as committee chair, but to ensure sustainability, the ideal committee will have two members serving as co-chairs. The garden committee chair(s) will serve as the contact for the grant. Garden committees must be formed **before** a grant is awarded.
- Every application must be accompanied by a letter of support from the school principal.
- Every application must be accompanied by a picture of the proposed garden space.
- Grant recipients must submit one-page descriptions of their garden activities and lessons twice each year.
- The introductory garden-teaching workshop at the school must be attended by at least six teachers. One teacher must attend the Best Practices Workshop in June in each of the grant's three years.
- In the first year of the grant, two classes of students must complete a simple "What Do You Know About Gardening?" survey before the gardening year starts and after the gardening year is completed. The survey includes 10 questions, requiring the students to circle *yes* or *no* answers. It can easily be read to younger students.

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Name of School \_\_\_\_\_ School Phone Number

School Address \_\_\_\_\_ County

Garden Committee Chair(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Email(s)

Principal Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email

Garden Committee Members/Grades Taught or Position:

Number of students \_\_\_\_\_ Number of teachers \_\_\_\_\_ %Free/reduced lunch

Grade levels at school

How many classes per grade level?

***Please answer the following questions on separate type-written pages and submit them with a letter of support from the school principal and a picture of the proposed garden space.***

1. Please describe your goals for the garden space.
2. How will the garden be used by at least two grade levels in the first year and by three or more grade levels in subsequent years? What ideas do you have for integrating the curriculum of these grade levels with the garden?
3. Please describe the area you intend to use for the garden, answering these questions: How has the space been used in the past? Does it receive six to eight hours of sunlight daily? What is the water source and how many feet is it from the garden space? Is the area fenced? If the area is not fenced, do you have a problem with deer? Is there any work that must be done before the space is used?
4. Please include a proposed budget for any items required or desired for your garden that are **not** included in the *Learning Through Gardening* grant. Do you have a source of funding for these items, for example, from the PTA or a community business? Please note that the *Learning Through Gardening* grant does **not** provide funding, only materials and training.
5. *Learning Through Gardening* requires at least six teachers to attend an introductory garden education workshop to be held at your school in March, and requires at least one teacher to attend a Best Practices workshop in June in each of the grant's three years. Will your school be able to meet these requirements? How will the information learned at the workshops be disseminated to other teachers?
6. What is your plan for staff, parent, or community support to ensure the gardening program is successful and sustainable?