



Growing Together Affiliation: Be a Fellow!

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 fruit and/or vegetable gardens and to provide teachers with the support needed to use the garden as an outdoor classroom. A school garden gives children the opportunity to learn where their food comes from, how it grows, and that a healthy diet begins with fruits and vegetables. Research shows that school gardening can improve students' test scores and school behavior. Further, gardens can promote effective experiential learning in many subjects, particularly the areas of science, environmental, and food education. School-based gardens may also spur the interest in young children to learn about and visit New Jersey's farms, and perhaps to consider pursuing a career path related to agriculture or to become our next generation of new/beginning farmers. These are goals that the *Growing Together* affiliation seeks to support and achieve.

As a public preschool or elementary school, the Learning Through Gardening program, we invite you to join our network of schools as a *Growing Fellow* - This is a three year affiliation to keep your school garden growing! As a *Growing Fellow* school, your school will receive:

- Seedlings and plugs for three seasons: spring, summer, fall (each year)
- Access to the Teacher ToolBox which contains over 100 garden related lessons and videos
- A monthly newsletter which has new content and is time relevant
- Support from the program director and a connection to our network of teachers and gardens throughout the state

Please keep in mind that:

- Only school gardens with an active garden in NJ public preschools or elementary schools are considered.
- A garden committee of at least six members must be maintained. The garden committee must include:
 - 3 teachers from *two* different grade levels
 - 1 PTO/PTA member
 - Other members may also include administrators, custodians, cafeteria managers, etc.
- At least one committee member must serve as committee chair. A second person may be designated as co-chair. The committee chairperson or co-chair may serve as contact person for the program.
- Applications must be accompanied by a letter of support from the school principal.
- Program participants will be required to submit an annual description of their garden activities, including photos if desired. If sharing photographs, please be aware that they may be used on the NJAS LTG website or in LTG newsletters. As such, appropriate releases should be provided for all individuals who appear in the photographs.
- One teacher must attend the Best Practices Workshop in each year of the participation in the program.

New Jersey Agricultural Society's



Growing Together Fellow School
Application

Name of School:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Mailing Address(if different from above):

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone number:

Fax number:

County:

Garden Committee Chairperson/Contact:

Role:

Email:

Principal:

Email:

- ***Be sure to include a letter of support from the school principal with your application***

Garden Committee Membership:

Member	Position: grade taught/role

Number of Students in the School:

Grade levels at school:

Classes per grade level:

Number of Teachers:

% free/reduced lunch:

Email completed applications to: nosterberg@njagsociety.org