

# What's Growing On?



Hi friends,

It's June! I can't believe it!

June is a beautiful time in the garden; I hope you and your students get to enjoy the garden space you have made. I encourage you and your students to take pictures to document their plants growth and maturation! Going back and looking at the progression of pictures is a great way for students to be reminded of how much their plants have grown and changed, just like they have since September!

I hope you have had a chance to view our Gardening Basics Workshop. Reach out if you would like to schedule an in-person workshop for your school. Gardening questions? Please reach out with any questions or concerns, anytime.

Happy Planting!

Nancy

## So, what do you think?

PLEASE, PLEASE let me know.....here is a link for a google form so that you can let me know what you think about all of the facets of the LTG program and how we can best support you, your committee, and your students!

<https://forms.gle/yhHtn7daRfFGxRAW7>

## Upcoming Events:

National Dairy Month

National Fruit & Vegetable Month

National Gardening Week -  
First full week in June!

National Pollinator Week - June  
20-26

June 17 – Eat All Your  
Vegetables Day!

June 21 – First day of summer!

## Important Announcements:

- **Thank you** to Kube Pak located in Allentown, NJ for donating the plugs to all the schools in our program!
- Everyone who requested warm weather seedlings should have received them!
- Cool weather leafy vegetables will be delivered beginning the week of September 12<sup>th</sup>!

## How does your Garden Grow?

### Seeds are Cool:

If you haven't used seeds in your garden, I would highly recommend it. While plugs can seem so much easier, it is a great learning experience for students to see the germination process! I always knew this was true, but I was recently reminded as I watched the bean seeds I planted, begin to grow. The parts of a seed can really be seen and appreciated while watching this process!



### Garden Tasks:

- Check your garden daily, it gets hot and will need water. Try not to water during the middle of the day, if possible.
- Feed and mulch your plants after they begin to flower. Mulch can help your plants retain moisture.
- Make sure you stake or cage your tomatoes, they will need it, and now is the time to do it! Also, when space is limited, use trellises so your plants can grow up.

### BEST PRACTICE WORKSHOP:

Planning for this event is underway! There will be two presentations of BPW held this year; one located in Northern NJ and one in Southern NJ. It's time to mark your calendars:

Tuesday, October 18 - Best Practice South

Thursday, October 20 - Best Practice North

More details will be coming!



Learning Through Gardening is creating a new affiliation program called *Growing Together!*

*Growing Partnership* - This is a "start-up" three-year affiliation. This will help to establish a brand-new school garden.

*Growing Associate* - This is a three-year affiliation that will help rejuvenate an existing garden area.

*Growing Ambassador* - This is a three-year affiliation to keep a Growing Together school garden growing! This can be applied for after your school has been a Growing Partner School or a Growing Associate School.

[Click here for the application.](#)

*Come Grow with Us!*

# Celebrate National Pollinators Week: Teach and Learn about Entomology!

Some people love pollinators and other insects, and some don't! No matter which category you fall into; there are many benefits of learning to identify the insects you and your students see in the garden.

Did you know that insects comprise an estimated 80% of all animal species? Holy Cow! That's a lot! There are more than one million identified species of insects in the world. The science of entomology is the branch of zoology that deals with insects. Entomology is important for all of us because we all live near or with insects. Knowing which bugs are useful and helpful, which are neutral, and which may be harmful is important for everyone!

You can share our Good Bugs/Bad Bugs PowerPoint [https://youtu.be/x\\_PMYMzb5IA](https://youtu.be/x_PMYMzb5IA)

You can have students make Insect Identification journals so that they have a way to keep track of the insects they see. When used in conjunction with apps such as Google Lens, a bug journal can make learning and identifying bugs a fun activity for kids of all ages; students can record how many of the common bugs they find. Students may even want to take pictures of the insects they see using an I-pad. A sample Insect Identification journal is available [here](#) if you are interested. This might be a good over the summer activity!

## Make Insect Jars!

Almost any kind of clear jar with a wide-mouthed opening will work for an insect jar. You can use a glass jar or a plastic jar. If you plan on keeping the bugs you collect for more than a few minutes, bigger (like a gallon-size pickle jar), is better. Recycled mason jars work just fine for the short-term.

Wash your chosen jar with warm water and detergent. Rinse it thoroughly several times to make sure there is no trace of soap left. If you are using a jar with a ring lid you can either poke holes in the flat part of the lid of the jar, or replace it with cloth or waxed paper, or screen. If using cloth or waxed paper make sure to still poke air holes in it, a toothpick can work well for this. If using an old window screen, trace circles on the screen using either the ring or the flat lid as a guide.

Add bits of the insect's natural environment to the jar, such as grass, twigs, and leaves.

*"Bugs are not going to inherit the earth. They own it now. So, we might as well make peace with the landlord."* – Thomas Eisner

# THE SPOTTED LANTERNFLY—PUBLIC ENEMY #1

## Teach your students about the Spotted Lantern Fly (SLF)

The spotted lanternfly (SLF) is an invasive planthopper that was first detected in North America in 2014 in Berks County, Pennsylvania. Since then, it has spread to other eastern states, including New Jersey. SLF feeds on many economically important crops like grapevines, hops, ornamental nursery plants and several tree species. SLF feeding is considered a plant stressor and may contribute to the long-term weakening of established plants and trees.

Try LTG's new PowerPoint: [https://youtu.be/LNHt1f\\_oFyM](https://youtu.be/LNHt1f_oFyM)

