

Starting and Sustaining Your School Garden Program

- 1. Gather Ideas, Resources, and Inspiration**
visit local gardens and natural areas
identify local school garden success stories
- 2. Create a Vision**
define common goals
set priorities
start with baby steps
- 3. Build a Team**
be inclusive
be organized
- 4. Funding and Supplies**
small sources and donations are significant initially
begin with basic supplies
capitalize on initial success to request larger funding
- 5. Understand Gardening Basics**
find experts in your school community
link with Master Gardener programs
attend workshops!
- 6. Teach and Learn in Gardens**
develop "garden classroom" style, rules, and expectations
become familiar with the state academic standards
link garden work and classroom work
- 7. Keep it Growing**
have a plan for ongoing maintenance
stay organized to keep all participants involved
- 8. Celebrate successes**
let everyone know
play as well as work in the garden
- 9. Evaluate, Adjust, and Allow for new Ideas**
keep looking for ways to improve
keep it fresh
keep taking baby steps