

Prepare for Planting

QUICK GUIDE - SCHOOL EDITION

School gardens are an incredible assets for the school community. For them to thrive it requires collaboration, commitment and patience. Sometimes the hardest question is where do I start?



HOW TO START?



1. Use google maps to get a birds eye view of your school. What areas have low traffic, and capacity for change?
2. Work with leadership and facilities to look into the future and make sure your planting site isn't near a future build
3. Prepare selected garden bed in summer with mulch for planting the following winter
4. Not sure if you'll be able to manage a big planting? Sometimes starting with one tree is the way to go!

WHERE TO PLANT?

- Front of school - bright colours, statement plants, they don't have to be native to be great habitat.
- Out of Bounds - areas with low foot traffic are great for delicate species and higher success rates.
- Near classrooms - avoid 'rain shadows', consider plants that might block the windows and lighting.
- Plan your planting at recess/lunch to gauge foot traffic.

WHAT TO PLANT

- Consider your habitat outcomes, maintenance and allergies. What animals do you want to attract? What curriculum links are important to you?
- Go to your local nursey with ideas, and let them help guide your plant selection.
- Labels and signage are crucial to make sure plants are properly cared for and not mistaken for weeds.

