

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY GARDENS



Benefits of a School Garden

Support School Meals

**Enhance Classroom
Activities**

How to Start a School Garden

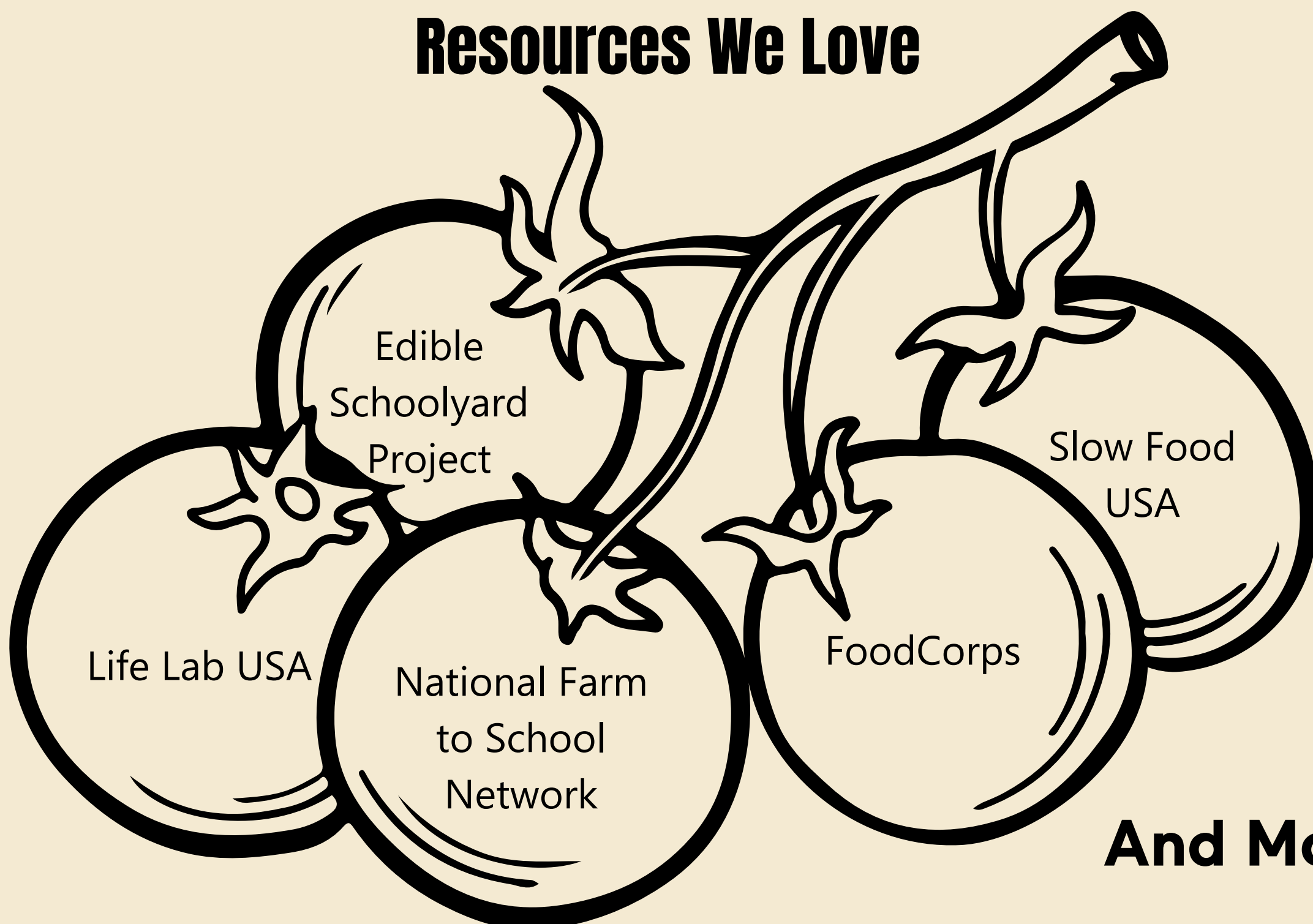
**Form Your
Group**

**Define Your
Goals**

**Design Your
Garden**

**Utilize Local
Resources**

Resources We Love



And More...

BENEFITS OF A SCHOOL/COMMUNITY GARDEN

Using School Garden Produce in the Cafeteria

Add herbs to a pizza, salad dressing, or entrée



Serve lettuce in the salad bar



Roast vegetables or make a delicious vegetable side dish



LFP FUNDS CAN BE USED TO PURCHASE PRODUCE FROM A SCHOOL GARDEN!



Consider: Will produce be donated or negotiated for price?

Enhance Classroom Activities

Increased Academic Achievement

Physical and Mental Wellness

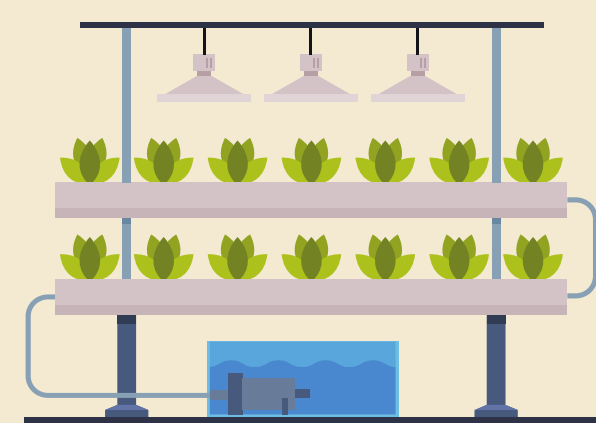
Developing Environmental Stewardship

Connect Classroom Topics to Real World Examples

Develop Lifelong Healthy Relationships With Food



Tip: based on your region utilize different techniques like sensory/learning gardens, hydroponics, hoop houses/high tunnels, greenhouses, grow domes, raised beds, etc.



HOW TO START



1) Form Your Group

- Reach out to school community including but not limited to: administration, teachers, facilities and maintenance, nutrition services, parents, and neighbors
- Set up communication methods, regular meetings, and a project lead to support meeting facilitation

2) Define Your Goals



- Create a master plan to: influence design, allocate funding, coordinate garden use, plan for summer maintenance and, plan for changing participation
- Create a mission and vision statement to help determine garden purpose, who will be using it, and who will maintain it
- Create an action plan to break mission and vision into actionable goals



3) Design Your Garden

- Think about your regional considerations and if season extension techniques will be needed
- Site Analysis:
 - Amount of light
 - Slope
 - Drainage
 - Water source
 - Mowing access
 - Staging area with truck access
 - Visibility
 - Security/loitering
 - Water and utility lines
 - Existing trees and shrubs
 - Wind
 - Traffic/pollution
 - Soil health & quality
 - After hour access
 - Existing structures

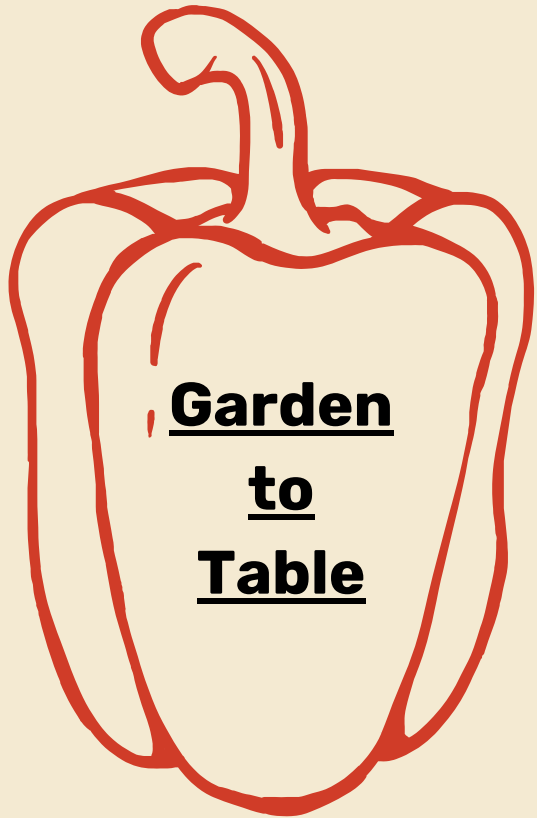
4) Utilize Local Resources

- Use the resources on the following pages
- Research local resources from Masters Gardeners or CSU extension



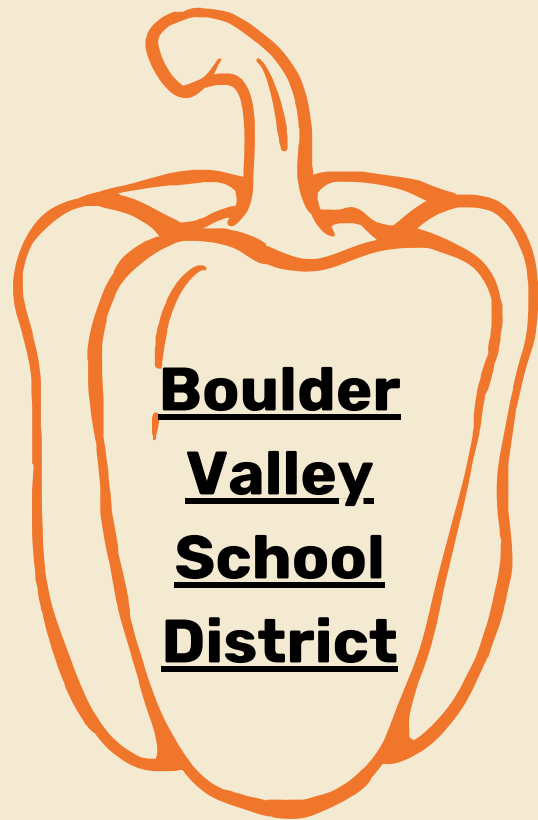
SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY GARDEN RESOURCES

Colorado-Specific



Garden to Table

- Tips for Outdoor Classroom Management
- Example lesson plans



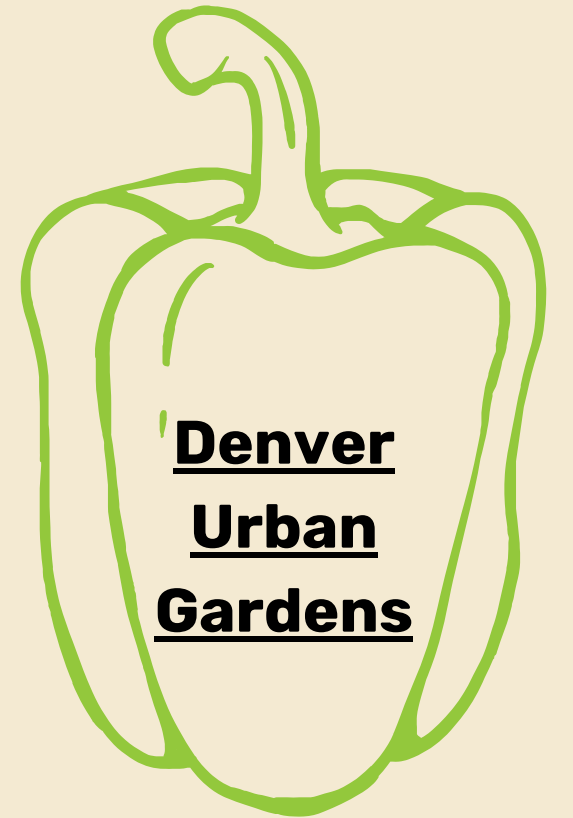
Boulder Valley School District

- Garden as a Classroom Trainings/ Manuel



Green Thumb Initiative

- Offers school and community programs



Denver Urban Gardens

- Information and resources for starting your own community garden
- Stewards community and school gardens

Guides



School Garden Checklist

- Steps to evaluate space, find resources/ partnerships, check soil health, design space/choose plants, and build out space



Maintaining Your School Garden

- Information about watering, thinning, weeding, mulching, fertilizing, composting, monitoring for pests, summer maintenance, and vandalism



School Garden Food Safety

- Provides assessment tools, resources, and procedures
- Checklists for food safety plan and training, restrooms/hygiene, soil/compost, water/ irrigation, animals, garden location, harvest/post-harvest, and food packaging



Best Practices for Using Produce from School Gardens

- Required steps for growing practices and harvesting/ handling

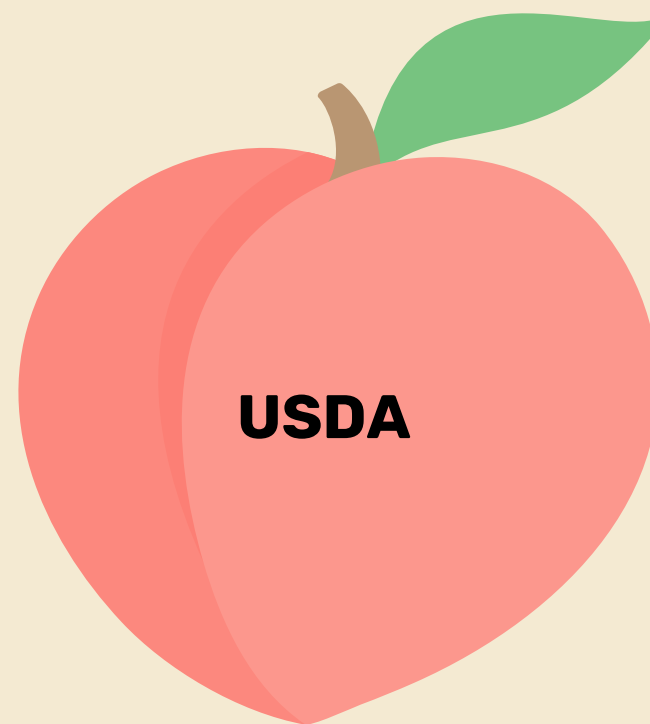
Grant Resources



- Offers grants for school gardens and child nutrition programs
- Provides \$3,000 to start a new or maintain an existing school garden



- Funds projects to start, expand, and maintain school gardens
- Also a great curriculum source!



- Urban Agriculture & Innovation Production
 - Can be urban/suburban/rural area
 - Can be used for school/community gardens
- People's Garden Initiative
- Farm to School Opportunities

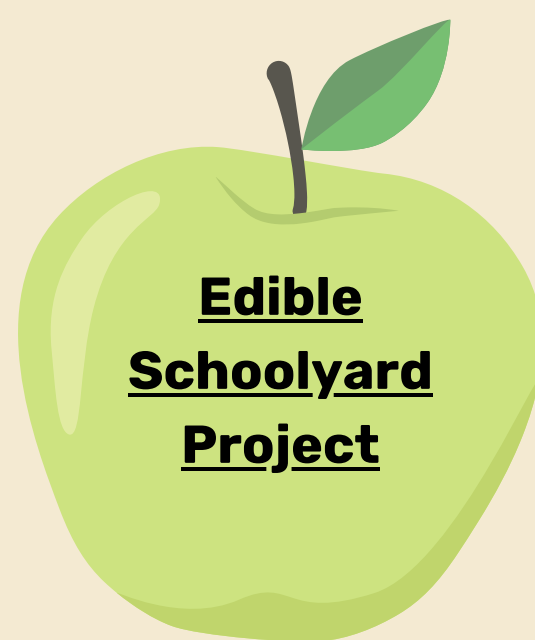


- Provides modular garden beds as well as grants
- Application only takes 15 minutes
- Also a great curriculum source!

Curriculum Resources



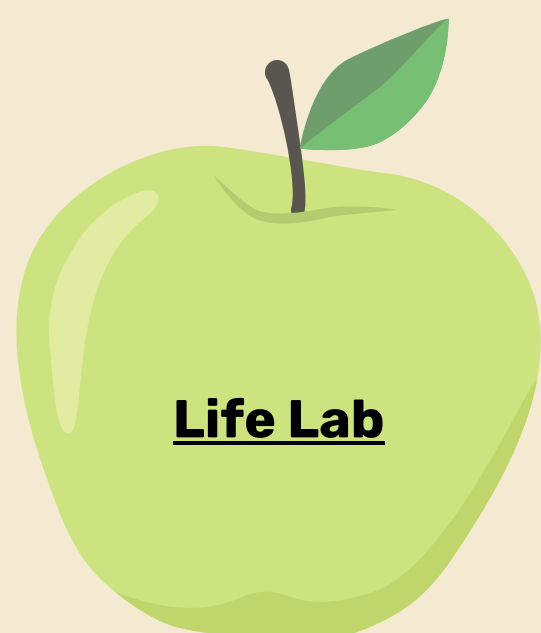
- Shares curriculum from school garden programs across the country



- Lesson planning resources filtered by classroom type, grade level, topic, teaching style, and more
- Also provides program development resources



- Can filter lessons by grade, theme, and season
- Provides a downloadable recipe book (in English and Spanish)!



- Edible education and garden education lessons and activities
- Also has resources for assessment, planning your garden, and more!



- School Garden Curriculum books in English and Spanish
- Curriculum for K-5



- Lessons related to designing your school garden
- Sustainability lessons for ages 5-11, 11-14, and 14-18

Community

Member Resources

