

Involving students in food gardens has many academic, social, behavioural and environmental benefits

Live Life Well @ School

Starting a School Garden

1

Getting started: composting & worm farming

- Contact your Local Council and speak to the School Waste Education Officer.
- Contact your Local Environmental Education Centre (EEC) e.g. Coal Loader, Kimbriki Eco House and Garden, Field of Mars, Gibberagong. They may provide onsite support or workshops for staff, volunteers or students.
- Watch a 'How to' video - compost and worm farm: www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/services/rubbish-and-recycling/waste-reduction/composting-and-worm-farming

2

Sourcing materials

- Contact local businesses e.g. hardware stores, garden centres.
- Source materials to reuse eg. Kimbriki, Council clean ups
- Ask your school community e.g. put a notice in the newsletter for seeds, spades, gloves etc.
- Contact a local professional sports team and ask about their community outreach program - they may provide funding and /or players to attend key events.
- Invite parents to involve their workplace if it has a Corporate Volunteer Program.
- Apply for grants e.g. Junior Landcare, Eco Schools, Nude Food.

3

Establishing the garden

- Identify the whole of school links to the garden e.g. curriculum, canteen, sustainability.
- Share with your school executive and community the great outcomes such as engaging learners, behaviour and well-being that can be achieved.
- Consider if the garden will be for whole of school, stage specific, interest group?
- Consider what watering system to use - hosing, wicking bed or water system? Think about water requirements in the school holidays.
- Utilise a garden expert to provide advice eg. use of space allocated, soil needs, sun, design, irrigation, pest management. Your Local Council or EEC may assist; or pay a professional from school funds, fundraising, grants or school term fees.
- See [Munch and Crunch Garden](#) resource for great school garden information.

4

Curriculum & community

- Refer to the list of syllabus links to STEM, PDHPE, sustainability on the "Linking the Garden to the Curriculum" fact sheet from Health Promotion contact below.
- Consider how you can build the garden into teaching and learning practices e.g. students design garden plan; prepare healthy recipes; problem solve: irrigation, pest and weed management, rostering volunteers; measure: water use, plant growth, seed viability, probability of success etc.
- Link in with the canteen, P&C/P&F fundraising plans, before and after school care.

5

Maintenance

- Set up a garden club or a student leadership team.
- Nominate classes to undertake different garden care activities that link to their learning outcomes. Have more than one teacher or parent to drive this— it's a team project!
- Invite and encourage your parent community to working bees, or to assist before and after school. Use a social media page, a section in the school newsletter or notice board to provide garden updates and guidance on what help is needed in the garden e.g. watering, pest and weed management.
- Arrange for the grounds assistant or paid professional to assist with garden maintenance.
- Use apps that provide handy plant and harvest reminders.
- Use your compost and worm farm castings on the soil to keep it fertilised & healthy.
- Ongoing funding: selling garden produce , school fees, donations and grants.