



The Giving Garden (Grades 3–5)

Students will plan, plant, and maintain a vegetable garden on school or community property to grow produce that can be delivered to those with limited access to fresh vegetables.

Learn! Questions to investigate before getting started

- **Which** local organizations could benefit from receiving fresh vegetables, and which vegetables would be most welcome? Identify food pantries, shelters, and soup kitchens.
- **Has** there ever been a garden on school property? If so, what lessons can be learned?
- **Who** from the community could help? Invite someone from a local nursery to share their best thinking about the tools, steps, and considerations for planting a garden.
- **Who** from the school should be involved in making decisions? How can you involve them? Is there a budget to consider?
- **Visit** 911day.org and pledge to participate in 9/11 Day this year and share your students' good deeds for 9/11 on Twitter and Facebook, hashtag #911Day

Share your good deed on Twitter and Facebook using #911Day.
(Or visit 911day.org)

Plan! Helpful hints to prepare for your 9/11 Day Project

- **Get sign-off** from stakeholders such as school administration, groundskeepers, and custodial staff. Confirm any budget or space constraints.
- **Write a letter** to parents and local businesses asking for donations of time and supplies.
- **Determine the best location** for the garden. Think about sunlight (at least six hours a day), soil, water supply, and space! Measure the space to help plan how many beds can be planted—100 square feet is good for a beginning garden
- **Select vegetables** that would grow best and be welcomed by “customers.”
- **Design the layout**, considering number of beds and assortment of vegetables.
- **Get donations or purchase** tools and materials. Don't forget soil, seeds or plants, watering cans, shovels, tillers, and gloves.
- **Choose the planting day** and spread the word! Have students design invitations for parents, school administration, community leaders, and “customers” to be part of the big day.

Do! Ready, set, go!

- **Confirm** that you have all necessary supplies!
- **Organize students** into teams by area of the garden or specific tasks. If community members or parents are helping, assign them to a student team.
- **Distribute project ideas and tools** to each team.
- **Begin planting!** Specific steps for sowing, planting, and maintaining a vegetable garden can be found by visiting the websites above.
- **Develop** a watering and weeding schedule where everyone can participate.
- When vegetables are ripe, invite local residents to come and “shop”! Plan a day when vegetables can be delivered to others in need.

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Think! Reflect on how your 9/11 Day Project has impacted students and the community

Have students use digital cameras or a journal to document progress and share the story of the garden. Hold a celebration day when the vegetables are ready to be picked and have each student share what he or she has learned from the project.

Keep It Going! Ideas to continue your 9/11 Day Project or inspire others to get started

- Set up a schedule for maintaining the garden.
- Set up delivery times for the vegetables and enlist help from parents.
- Have students prepare a meal for a local shelter or food pantry using their fresh vegetables!
- Encourage students to come up with other ways to support those in need—perhaps a canned food drive or collection of needed items.
- Visit serve.gov for more ideas.

Share your Good Deed on Twitter, #911Day

- **Let the world know** what your class did to pay tribute on 9/11 by sharing your good deed (and pics) on Twitter or Facebook (hashtag #911Day). Also visit 911day.org for more info.



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