



## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://911day.org) for more info.



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