
Curriculum Library

[GrowNYC Farmstand Business Curriculum \(High School\)](#)

The Farmstand Business curriculum empowers school communities to take a meaningful look at our food system, to evaluate the growing capacity at their individual schools, and examines the model GrowNYC has used for over 50 years to support food access in New York City. It allows your school to reach beyond the perimeter of your school garden and onto plates in your communities, while allowing your students to learn real-world business skills.

[GrowNYC Food Justice Curriculum \(High School\)](#)

This 8-lesson curriculum was designed to empower and enlighten people about Food Justice. Food Justice efforts are a rallying cry from the people directly affected by inequitable food policies and practices. Our GrowNYC team designed this curriculum with NYC high schoolers in mind, although it can be adapted for all ages and places. Each lesson introduces a different aspect of Food Justice, with key vocabulary, videos, discussion questions and a post-activity.

[GrowNYC & Ample Table for Everyone Root Camp Curriculum \(5-8\)](#)

Root Camp is a 10-lesson nutrition and food awareness curriculum with a cooking activity in each lesson, designed to foster healthy eating habits and culinary skills.

[GrowNYC's Zero Waste Schools Program \(3-12\)](#)

Looking to tie in recycling education and initiatives surrounding your school garden? Check out these resources for deepening students' understanding of why it is important to reduce our waste and decrease the amount of materials sent to landfills. Looking closely at the social, economic and environmental reasons to reduce waste provides students with the motivation to recycle. Lessons are available for upper elementary through high school students.

[Bee Lesson Plans from The Bee Conservancy \(PreK-12\)](#)

The Bee Conservancy has compiled lesson plans for PreK-12th grade on topics of honeybees around the globe and in New York City, native bees, and pollinator gardens. There are many hands-on activities, whether or not your school garden has a beehive.

[Big Green Ready, Set, Grow Curriculum \(K-8\)](#)

Big Green is a non-profit with an aim to promote the creation of practical garden based education opportunities. They provide a K-8 [Ready, Set, Grow](#) curriculum with lessons centered around the various plant parts that humans consume.

[Captain Planet Foundation Educator Resources \(PreK-8\)](#)

Captain Planet Foundation's Project Learning Garden provides a Collection of Garden Explorations of lessons and activities that align with standards. Project Learning Garden also provides Growing Guides and Recipes in their [Educator Resources](#) section.

[Cornell University Garden-Based Learning \(K-8\)](#)

Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences provides several garden-based lessons on a wide range of topics, including [Project S.O.W: Food Gardening with Justice in Mind](#).

[Earth Matter Open Source Curriculum \(Various Ages\)](#)

Earth Matter is a New York City non-profit organization that is dedicated to advancing the art, science, and application of composting in the city. Their Open Source Curriculum is a collection of DIY activities related to the education of composting techniques with varying ranges of difficulty for different age groups. Each activity in the curriculum is available in three different languages: English, Spanish, and Chinese.

[Edible Schoolyard \(PreK -12\)](#)

Edible Schoolyard empowers students with knowledge and values to make food choices that are healthy for them, their communities, and the environment through their pre-k through high school curriculum. Lessons are fully integrated into academic subjects, support content standards, Common Core, and Next Generation Science Standards and they're designed to achieve edible education learning goals and life skills like communication, personal & community stewardship, flexibility, and perseverance.

[Edible Schoolyard NYC \(PreK-5\)](#)

Edible Schoolyard NYC is a nonprofit organization on a mission to make edible education accessible for every child in NYC. They believe edible education—where children experience hands-on cooking and gardening—helps them gain the skills to contribute to a healthy and sustainable food system for us all. They have a curriculum for downloading along with a wealth of school gardening resources.

[Food Corps Lesson Plans \(K-5\)](#)

The FoodCorps Lessons include hands-on experiential activities to engage kids in learning about healthy food. These 96 lessons are for grades K-5, and are organized through this learning progression by grade, season and theme. The lessons are tied to national academic standards and were developed following Culturally Responsive Teaching, Place Based Learning, and Social and Emotional Learning best practices and frameworks.

Freshfarm FoodPrints Curriculum (PreK-5)

Freshfarm is a non-profit organization working in the food access, economic development, and food systems education space. Their FoodPrints curriculum is a collection of over 60 standards based lessons integrating gardening, cooking, and nutrition education. The curriculum is free, but registration with the organization is required.

Gowanus Canal Conservancy (5-8)

Teachers can download free STEM Gowanus curriculum for grades 5-8, including pre, post and field lessons, background text, maps and handouts integrated for use in Science, ELA, and Social Studies and aligned with Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards. There are six curriculum units to choose from including: The History & Geography of the Gowanus Canal, Exploring the Gowanus Watershed & Sewershed, Water & Soil Quality Testing, Flora & Fauna of the Gowanus Canal, and Capstone Project Using the Design Process. All use the design process for project-based learning. Filling out a [pre-survey](#) grants you the link to download the above units. For questions, contact education@gowanuscanalconservancy.org

Johns Hopkins Center for a Liveable Future Foodspan Curriculum (9-12)

Foodspan: Teaching the Food System from Farm to Fork is a 17-lesson curriculum that focuses on critical issues in the food system. Food system topics included relate to human health, the environment, equity, and animal welfare.

KidsGardening Lesson Plans and Garden Activities (K-12)

KidsGardening has been creating and publishing resources to help teachers, volunteers and parents plan successful youth gardens and implement effective youth garden programs.

Spanish Language Lessons from KidsGardening: Siembra con niños (K-12)

KidsGardening has been creating and publishing resources to help teachers, volunteers and parents plan successful youth gardens and implement effective youth garden programs. They provide select lesson plans and activities in Spanish.

Life Lab (K-5)

Life Lab is a Santa Cruz based nonprofit organization that cultivates children's love of learning, healthy food, and nature through garden-based education. Through workshops and consultations, they provide tens of thousands of educators across the country with the inspiration and information necessary to engage young people in gardens and on farms. They have a list of garden-based lessons and activities that are standards aligned. Access the Life Lab website [here](#).

[Spanish Language Garden Resources from Life Lab / Recursos jardinerias en español de Life Lab \(K-5\)](#)

Life Lab is a Santa Cruz based nonprofit organization that cultivates children's love of learning, healthy food, and nature through garden-based education. Through workshops and consultations, they provide tens of thousands of educators across the country with the inspiration and information necessary to engage young people in gardens and on farms. They have a list of garden-based lessons and activities that are standards aligned.

[National Farm to School Network Hydroponics Classroom Guides \(K-2, 3-5\)](#)

National Farm to School Network has two separate hydroponics focused classroom guides. [Discovering through Hydroponics: A Classroom Guide](#) is designed for grades K - 2 and [Exploring Hydroponics: A Classroom Lesson Guide](#) is designed for grades 3 - 5.

[National Wildlife Federation \(PK-12\)](#)

The National Wildlife Federation provides educators with easy-to-implement, trusted curriculum and activities that help inspire the next generation of environmental stewards. Curriculum options are available for Pre-K-12 students and include [Growing a Wild NYC: A Pollinator Curriculum](#), [Lesson Plans and Webinars](#), [Monarch Mission](#), [Schoolyard Habitats How To Guides](#), [Schoolyard Habitat Audits](#), [Planting for Pollinators](#), and much more.

[New York Agriculture in the Classroom \(K-12\)](#)

New York Agriculture in the Classroom has an online, searchable, and standards-based curriculum matrix for K-12 teachers, using national education standards in science, social studies, and nutrition education to enhance your school garden.

[NYBG](#)

The New York Botanic Garden (NYBG) is a beloved gardening and greening institution in NYC. Their teacher resource page has curriculum, gardening calendars, garden case studies, and a bibliography of garden related books for students. You can access the full teacher resource center at the NYBG [here](#). Lesson plans are searchable by topic area or grade level and are aligned with the New York City Science Scope and Sequence, as well as New York State Standards.

[NYBG Bronx Green-Up Certificate Course \(Adult\)](#)

Created for adult learners but adaptable for all ages, this curriculum includes 5 lessons outlining organic growing techniques. Lessons are free for download at the above link.

Pilot Light: The Food Education Center Lesson Plan Library (PreK-12)

Pilot Light's Lesson Plan Library has free lesson plans to help with including food education into the school curriculum. Developed by educators, the searchable database has lesson plans that include curricular information, background knowledge, and recommended anchor texts.

Subject to Climate Lesson Plans (K-12)

SubjectToClimate's mission is "to make climate change teaching and learning accessible to all." They do this by providing a trove of lesson plans that are searchable by your region and/or are applicable across the board.

Tisch Food Center Food Ed Hub Curricula (K-12)

Columbia University's Teacher's College Tisch Food Center Food Ed Hub has a wealth of curricula and resources for educators. A primary focus of their various curricula is the connecting of Food and Nutrition education to Reading, Writing, & Literacy as well as to Science Education.

WholeKids Foundation and American Heart Association Lesson Plans (PreK-5)

The Whole Kids Foundation and American Heart Association created these 35 lesson plans to connect classrooms to the garden. The activities engage students in a fun and educational exploration of fruits, vegetables and healthy eating. The lessons are cross-curricular and can be found [here](#).

USDA's Dig In Curriculum (6-8)

The USDA's Food & Nutrition Services Team has developed a middle school garden-to-classroom curriculum. "Dig In" explores a world of possibilities in the garden and on your plate using ten inquiry-based lessons that engage 5th and 6th graders in growing, harvesting, tasting, and learning about fruits and vegetables. You can access the 10-lesson series through the [USDA website](#).