


You Can Have Your Garden and Eat It Too

The three major steps to becoming a certified edible school garden


Get Organized

Planning your garden is as important as the planting of the garden itself. Before beginning, it is essential to identify leaders who are excited about the garden, as well as pinpoint a location for the garden.

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- ✓ Identify a person in charge (PIC) or garden manager to champion the project and maintain primary responsibility for the garden.
 - ✓ Meet with school administration to gain approval and input on the garden.
 - ✓ Locate a suitable site for the garden. Create a map of the size and shape of your future garden.
 - ✓ Consider budgetary concerns and look into grant opportunities.


Get Educated

An important part of creating a successful school garden is being educated in proper gardening safety. For produce from your garden to be served in the school's cafeteria, the garden manager must be knowledgeable in food safety and agricultural practices.

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- ✓ Become educated on food safety by reading over the guidelines set by the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS).
 - ✓ Understand how to implement good agricultural practices (GAP) and good handling practices (GHP) into your school garden by creating a food safety plan.

Get Certified

Become a certified edible school garden by submitting three documents to the school sanitarian, Kathryn Mathewson of ADHS. Documentation includes:

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- ✓ A site map of the garden you intend to build
 - ✓ A food safety plan- a template is available on the ADHS website
 - ✓ A "Request For School Garden Site Visit" application