

# School Garden Essentials

## Resource List

School Garden Essentials is a series of professional development programs for Upper Peninsula educators – formal and non-formal – who want to learn more about how to engage youth in learning about agriculture, food, and natural resources. This program is offered by MSU UP Research and Extension Centers in cooperation with hosts and partners across the UP. Contact Abbey at [palmerab@msu.edu](mailto:palmerab@msu.edu) for more information.

### Finding people...

Many schools in the U.P. have agriculture education, whether that is a formal CTE Agriculture program or a school garden, hoop house, or raising animals. Seek out teachers, farmers, and community members who can share their experiences with you. You can get connected locally and nationally using the links below.

#### Growing the UP

<http://www.growingtheup.org/>

Search a map of agriculture education projects in the UP for peer-to-peer learning between teachers.

#### Land Based Learning in UP Schools

<https://www.msunorthfarm.org/land-based-learning-centers.html>

Learn how students and farmers have worked together to address sustainability issues.

#### Michigan Farm to School

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/farm\\_to\\_school/people](https://www.canr.msu.edu/farm_to_school/people)

Connect with MSU Extension educators who specialize in supporting Farm to School activities, such as food education for youth, school gardens, and school procurement of local foods.

#### Taste the Local Difference Farm to School Directory

<https://www.localdifference.org/find-food-farms/farm-to-school-directory.html>

Filter results by your county to find farms that offer farm tours or educational activities for students.

#### UP Food Exchange

<https://upfoodexchange.com/about/>

Tap into a local food information network that is focused on UP organizations and issues.

#### National Farm to School Network

<http://www.farmtoschool.org/>

The National Farm to School Network is an information, advocacy and networking hub for communities working to bring local food sourcing and food and agriculture education into school systems and early care and education environments.

#### School Garden Support Organization Network

<https://www.sgsonetwork.org/about/>

The SGSO Network is an open peer-to-peer learning network with the goal of growing, sustaining and elevating a movement of equitable garden-based education. This organization provides professional & leadership development, resources, and platforms to connect for members serving at a school, district, regional, state, or national level.

## Finding funding...

### 10 Cents a Meal

<https://www.tencentsmichigan.org/about>

10 Cents A Meal for Michigan's Kids & Farms is a state-funded program providing schools and early childhood education centers with match incentive funding up to 10 cents per meal to purchase and serve Michigan-grown fruits, vegetables, and legumes. The program is available state wide and has annual application deadlines.

### Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Youth Educator Grants

<https://northcentral.sare.org/grants/apply-for-a-grant/youth-educator-grant/>

The Youth Educator program provides opportunities for youth to learn about Sustainable Agriculture (farming and ranching that is ecologically sound, profitable, and socially responsible). Youth Educator grants support projects by youth educators that encourage youth to try sustainable practices and explore sustainable agriculture as a viable career option.

### UP Food Exchange Farm to School Fundraiser

<https://upfoodexchange.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Farm-To-School-FAQ-2019.pdf>

A fundraising program that sources products made right here in the Upper Peninsula. Your school can raise money by selling high quality items from small, local producers.

### USDA Farm to School Grant Program

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cfs/farm-school-grant-program>

On an annual basis, USDA awards competitive Farm to School grants that support planning, developing, and implementing farm to school programs. USDA's Farm to School grants are an important way to help state, regional, and local organizations as they initiate, expand, and institutionalize farm to school efforts. There are many types of Farm to School grants – check out the Seeding Success webinar series for ideas.

**Local funding sources could include community foundations, health foundations, and service clubs.**

## Finding activities, lesson plans, and curricula...

### Career Technical Education: Agriculture Clusters

<https://careertech.org/agriculture>

Career clusters are an organizing tool for Career Technical Education (CTE) programs, curriculum design and instruction. The framework functions as a useful guide in developing programs of study bridging secondary and postsecondary systems and for creating individual student plans of study for a complete range of career options. As such, it helps learners discover their interests and their passions, and empowers them to choose the educational pathway that can lead to success in high school, college and career. Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources is focused on the production, processing, marketing, distribution, financing, and development of agricultural commodities and resources including food, fiber, wood products, natural resources, horticulture, and other plant and animal products or resources.

### Cornell Garden Based Learning: Discovering Our Food System

<https://gardening.cals.cornell.edu/lessons/curricula/discovering-our-food-system/>

Discovering Our Food System is an interdisciplinary, community-based exploration of the people and processes that shape our food system. Rooted in the places we live, eat, work, learn, and play, these activities help youth better understand what the food system means to them, how it affects their community and their health, and ways in which they can influence the food system. If you're looking for a place to start, try Ithaca Children Garden's Seed to Salad, an adaptable project that can be done after school or during the school day: <http://blogs.cornell.edu/garden/get-activities/signature-projects/seed-to-salad/>

### **FFA Ag Explorer Educator Resources**

<https://agexplorer.ffa.org/Resources>

Utilize these resources focused on agriculture careers to enhance your classroom instruction or use as standalone lessons and activities. Whether students are learning about agriculture careers for the first time or are diving into specific details; the implementation guides, activities and field trip guides are designed to further educate about the multitude of opportunities that exist in the industry of agriculture.

### **FoodCorps Lessons**

<https://foodcorps.org/resources/foodcorps-lessons/>

The FoodCorps Lessons include hands-on experiential activities to engage kids in learning about healthy food. This suite of 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. This suite of lessons is intended to guide food and garden educators to spark inquiry and love for healthy food and should be adapted to reflect the needs, identity and culture of the community in which they are taught.

### **The Edible School Yard Project**

[www.edibleschoolyard.org](http://www.edibleschoolyard.org)

The mission of the Edible Schoolyard Project is to build and share an edible education curriculum for kindergarten through high school. Our vision is for gardens and kitchens to become interactive classrooms for academic subjects, and for every student to have a free, nutritious, organic lunch. If this program is integrated into schools, the curriculum could transform the health and values of every child in America.

### **Food, Farming, and Community: Michigan State University Museum Voices Project**

<http://www.foodfarmingandcommunity.org/curriculum/>

This curriculum is comprised of six 1.5- 2 hour sessions that address a broad scope of sustainable agriculture issues and includes making personal connections with food, the environmental “footprint” of food production, price vs. cost, trends in agriculture, and historic factors affecting today’s food systems.

### **Kids Gardening Educator Resources**

<https://kidsgardening.org/educator-resources/>

For over three decades, Kids Gardening has been creating and publishing resources to help teachers, volunteer and parents plan successful youth gardens and implement effective youth garden programs. This site has you links to an extensive collection of support materials – books, curricula, garden activities, and more.

### **Shelburne Farms**

<https://shelburnefarms.org/our-work/resources>

Shelburne Farms’ education staff support both student learning and professional development for educators. Resources include lessons from several experiential learning programs for students: Cultivating Joy and Wonder, Education for Sustainability, and Project Seasons.

## Finding technical information...

### Garden to Cafeteria

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/garden\\_to\\_cafeteria](https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/garden_to_cafeteria)

This Garden to Cafeteria Guide provides an approach for school garden educators and stakeholders, both experienced and newcomer, to successfully source products from school gardens for use in the cafeteria or food program.

### Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Outreach Publications

<https://www.sare.org/sare-outreach-publications/>

SARE Outreach produces a wide range of resources featuring SARE funded research on many topics related to sustainable agriculture – bees, cover crops, soil health, and much more.

## MSU Institute of Agriculture Technology Certificate at Bay College

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/iat/locations/escanaba>

The Institute of Agricultural Technology has partnered with Bay College in Escanaba to offer a unique way for students to earn an MSU certificate in agricultural operations while also working toward their associate of applied science degree from Bay College. This partnership allows students to access resources in academics, financial aid, career services, and student life at both educational institutions.



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