

Service-Learning in Action: Plant Health

Suggested Time:

60 minutes + time to create a garden

Materials:

- Computer with Internet access
- Chart paper and markers
- Sticky notes
- My Community Garden graphic organizer

Learning Goals:

Students will:

- Understand the need for sustainable agriculture practices
- Apply their knowledge by creating a community garden and raising awareness for the importance of sustainable agriculture.

Create a Community Garden

(60 minutes + time to create a garden)

1. Ask students to think back to Lesson 2: Plant Health and share three things that they learnt from the lesson. Explain to students that they will now have an opportunity to use their knowledge to create a garden in their school or local community.
2. Explain to students that they will be developing their own community garden. Ask students to create small groups and provide each group with the **My Community Garden** graphic organizer. Invite them to decide what they will grow and the steps they will take to ensure the highest crop yield. As they are planning, encourage them to refer to the learning about the 4R Nutrient Stewardship system and best practices in farming to think about what they will need to develop their community garden.
3. Encourage students to consider the seeds they will plant; the sources of light, shade, water and shelter they have; how they will maintain their garden and what the cost of their garden will be.
4. If time and resources are available, consider providing students with an opportunity to implement their plan. A community garden can be created inside the classroom, in the schoolyard or in a local community space. Each group can create their own small garden, or students can vote on the plan they would like to implement as a class.
5. Encourage students to monitor the growth and progress of the crops in their garden to assess if the best practices they

implemented were effective. Ask students, what would you change in the development of your community garden? What were the factors that lead to a successful or unsuccessful garden? What information would you give to someone who wanted to create their own community garden.

6. Invite students to share their experiences within their school or local community to raise awareness for the importance of sustainable agriculture practices. If it is not possible for students to create their own garden, encourage them to find creative ways to present their plan to their local community and share their knowledge about best practices in sustainable agriculture.



Encourage students to research alternative growing techniques, such as vertical farms. Ask students to consider the environment and context they are growing their community gardens and invite them to consider an alternative option if a community garden is not feasible.

Show students the video "Britta Riley | TEDx Manhattan | A garden in my apartment" www.ted.com/talks/britta_riley_a_garden_in_my_apartment?language=en#t-370293 (7:45). Ask them, what strategies discussed in the video can they implement in their own community garden.

Additional Resources

www.littlegreenthumbs.org/resources/
www.nutrientstewardship.com/4rs/



AN INITIATIVE OF



MADE POSSIBLE BY



IN COLLABORATION WITH



My Community Garden

Use the following question to help you plan your garden:

What is the purpose of this community garden? Who will this community garden impact? Consider the social, environmental and economic impact of this project?

Who will lead the development of this garden? Who will run and maintain the community garden?

Where will the garden be located? What permissions do we need to build this community garden?

What resources will be needed? (E.g., soil, plants/seeds, water, sun/light, labour)

What is the overall cost of the project? Where will the funds come from? (Consider creating an actual budget outlining the overall expenses and funding opportunities.)

How will you use the food you harvest from your garden?

My Community Garden

To learn how to build and maintain your garden visit:

www.littlegreenthumbs.org

Use this diagram to organize the crops you will plant in your garden. Consider what plants grow well together, how many of each crop you will plant and how much space each plant requires. If an aerial image of your school or school yard or classroom is available, consider using that for planning purposes.

