

The Curriculum

Growing Gardens for Growing Minds' curriculum is aligned with NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) and was created through a collaborative effort between Walden West and the Innovation & Instructional Support Team at Santa Clara County Office of Education.

Kindergarten: Dirt Detectives

A close inspection of soil will get kids exploring, asking questions and looking at worms. They will practice sorting their surroundings and soil into living and non-living items. Students will plant seeds in different soil types to see the effect this has on the seed's growth.

1st Grade: Plant Detectives

By exploring their schoolyard and parts of a plant, students will learn about patterns of structure and function. Students learn what a plant needs to live and how it compares to humans' needs. Students will plant a seed and be able to observe it as it grows.

2nd Grade: Busy Bees

Students will discover the art of pollination and look for pollinators in the garden or schoolyard. They will look for flowers and then dissect a flower and ask questions about structure and function. A closer look at seeds and planting of seeds will give students an appreciation of the reproduction cycle of a plant.

3rd Grade: Seed Survivors

Students will compare and contrast two plants growing under different environmental conditions. Then they will design their own experiment providing different conditions for a seed to grow.

4th Grade: A Plant's Work is Never Done

Both plants and animals adapt to survive. Students will hunt for plant adaptations and how different parts of a plant work together in a system. They will plant a seed and ask questions about how a flower turns into a seed.

5th and 6th Grade: Energy Matters

Students will explore how energy flows and matter cycles in a plant. They will construct food chains and food webs with living things they find in the school yard. Then they will investigate soil or compost and how matter recycles. They will tie it all together by planting a seed and giving it what it needs to grow.