



Kids Growing Food

“Connecting Kids to Agriculture through growing food at school”

www.nyaged.org/aitc

Goals The main goals of *Kids Growing Food* are to increase appreciation and understanding of agriculture, nutrition and the food system by getting students involved in food gardening at school and to create “garden classrooms” that provide authentic experiences and help educators meet state and national Learning Standards.

***Kids Growing Food* participants agree to:**

- ❖ Make links to agriculture, food systems and good nutrition
- ❖ Integrate the garden into the core curriculum
- ❖ Grow mostly food-producing plants
- ❖ Involve the school and community
- ❖ Attend one Spring workshop
- ❖ Publicize the garden
- ❖ Produce a Final Report
- ❖ Actively participate in the KGF Network

What's Involved?

Annually, teachers are invited to submit garden mini-grant proposals. Schools receive a cash award to help them establish or maintain a food garden. Additionally, grant recipients are offered workshops at two or three sites each year. They are provided education and gardening materials and become part of the **Kids Growing Food Network**. Schools are welcome to join the network without receiving a grant.

Now in its 11th year, *Kids Growing Food* has awarded over 300 garden grants in New York. It is estimated that *Kids Growing Food* teachers involved over 50,000 students in hands-on food gardening educational experiences in 2008. Funding sources currently include New York Ag in the Classroom funds through the NYS Department of Ag & Markets, private donations, and specialty agriculture license plate fees.

Kids Growing Food (KGF)

- **1998:** 52 grants awarded to New York elementary schools for food gardens.
- **1999:** 48 grants awarded to New York elementary schools for food gardens.
- **2000:** 34 grants awarded to K-12 New York schools for food gardens.
- **2000:** KGF Network forms. Listserv, web site, and workshops link current and past recipients.
- **2001:** 32 grants awarded to K-12 New York schools.
- **2002:** 21 grants awarded to K-12 NY schools.
- **2003:** 44 grants awarded to K-12 NY schools.
- **2004:** 32 grants awarded to NY schools.
- **2005:** 12 new KGF gardens established in NY.
- **2006:** 15 new KGF gardens established in NY.
- **2007:** 4 new KGF gardens established in NY.
- **2008:** 9 new KGF gardens established and 10 KGF II grants awarded to maintain existing gardens.

Starting in 2001: Several High School partnership gardens started with Ag Tech Prep funds each year.

Starting in 2008: The KGF II Continuation Grant became available to previous KGF recipients.

All Years: Regional KGF workshops held for teachers and garden partners.

All Years: Grant recipients' Final Reports demonstrate strong community connections to the gardens.

All Years: Final Reports demonstrate a wide variety of student benefits from the gardens.

All Years: Kids Growing Food receives recognition in local, state and national publications.

All Years: KGF continues to seek financial support, in-kind partnerships and collaborations.

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