



GARDEN GRANT OPPORTUNITY!

2009-2010 School Year

Dear School Garden Coordinator:

Thank you for your interest in the California Fertilizer Foundation's (CFF) School Garden Program. Our goal is to increase the understanding and awareness of agriculture in California's youth through school gardens. In so doing, classroom curriculum can be enhanced with first-hand experiences. Our purpose is to provide funding to California's public and private elementary, middle and high schools for continuation and/or implementation of in- and after-school garden programs. Pre-schools, community gardens, and colleges are not eligible.

In 1999, the California Fertilizer Foundation (CFF) contributed \$8,000 to predominately urban schools in California to be used in sustaining or establishing school gardens. To date, CFF has donated more than \$200,000 to over 190 California schools for school garden projects. During the 2009-2010 school year, CFF will award 24 garden grants of \$1,200 each. Applications will be accepted at any time, and reviewed twice a year after June 15 and January 15. Grantees will be notified by March 1 and August 1 each year.

A grant application form follows. The form is not intended to be cumbersome; rather, it is your opportunity to provide insight into the garden projects you wish to develop and your dedication to the sustainability of the programs. As the application form states, photographs and a description of how your garden project is/will be implemented in the classroom are required. Information on how you plan to teach about soil quality and plant health will strengthen your application.

Again, thank you for your interest. All applications are kept for one year. We encourage applicants to reapply often.

Best wishes on a successful garden,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pamela Emery".

Pamela Emery
Director of Programs

Enclosure



SCHOOL GARDEN PROGRAM

Purpose: To provide funding for California public and private elementary, middle and high schools for continuation and/or implementation of in- and after-school garden programs. Due to limited funding, pre-schools, colleges and community gardens are not eligible for this grant.

Goal: To increase California children's understanding and awareness of agriculture through school gardens, and, in so doing, enhance existing curriculum and goals in the classroom.

Funding: During the 2009-2010 school year, CFF will award 24 grants of \$1,200 each to schools in California. At the end of the year, CFF will invite those schools to reapply for a "progress grant" of \$1,500 and a free agricultural field trip.

Resources: A number of garden-related projects exist in the state of California, including the California School Garden Network, the Department of Education's "Garden in Every School" program, the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom, and various other ag-related educational programs. Utilizing all these resources to meet the needs of individual schools is part of CFF's program goals.

Accomplishments

Understanding where food comes from is a critical connection for students for a variety of reasons. School gardens provide a real-life model of where food comes from and how it gets from the field to the table. For many children, however, these are just some of the positive lessons that gardens provide.

Gardening not only connects us to the soil – and the food we eat – but with humanity. The simple act of planting a seed links human experience across generations and borders and experiences, expressing the fundamental thing we all hold in common: that soil, cultivated, nourishes our bodies, and also feeds our souls. Rose Hayden-Smith, Acting County Director, University of California Cooperative Extension, Ventura, CA

By understanding gardens, children can also gain an interest in and a better understanding of nutrition.

I never knew how great a salad could be. I loved the peas and beets we grew. I even liked the turnip. I had never tried one before even when my mom said it was good for me. Carrots are still my favorite though. Fifth Grader, John C. Fremont Elementary, Glendale, CA.

Gardens provide a means of reaching students. Students struggling in math, reading, writing, communication, physical education and other areas become interested in these subjects when they are applied in the "real-world" setting of a garden.

Our fourth grade students were afforded the opportunity to witness the pollination of our basil plant by bees. They were able to see why this is so and discuss the importance of reproduction in plants. In addition, students were able to learn about the value of good soil by testing it and providing nutrients that were missing. Jeanie Greeran, La Fetra Elementary School, Glendora, CA.



**2009-2010 CALIFORNIA FERTILIZER FOUNDATION SCHOOL GARDEN GRANT
APPLICATION/COVER SHEET**

Date: _____ (*Applications due January 15 and June 15; postmark date*)

1. Name of School: _____

2. Address: _____ City: _____ St.: ____ Zip: _____

3. School Phone Number: _____ Principal: _____

4. Grant Key Contact: _____ Phone _____

5. E-mail Address: _____

6. Title of School Garden Project: _____

After-School Only In-School Only In- & After-School

7. School Calendar Traditional Year Round Other

8. Number of students involved: _____ Number of teachers/staff/parents involved: _____

9. Grade levels served: _____ Would you like FFA members to work with students in the garden? _____

10. Is this program already in place? _____ If yes, how many years? _____

11. Have you received funding from CFF in the past? _____ If yes, what year(s)? _____

12. List other funds and in-kind donations received for this program (i.e., grants, donations, etc.):

Application should include (maximum of 15 pages) and be postmarked on or prior to January 15 and June 15 deadlines:

- This one page application form (on top)
- Cover letter
- Description of connections between the garden, classroom and academic standards.
- Information on how you plan to teach about soil quality and plant health.
- Letters of support (i.e. students, principal, volunteers, community members, etc.)
- Explanation of how funds will be used.
- Photos, news clippings, and other supporting materials.
- Sustainability plans for your garden.

Mail **three** copies of the completed application to: Pam Emery, California Fertilizer Foundation, 4460 Duckhorn Drive, Suite A, Sacramento, CA 95834. Faxes, CDs, DVDs, e-mails and/or other electronic materials will not be accepted. **Grantees will be notified of their awards by March 1 and August 1 each year.**

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