



Society Promoting Environmental Conservation
Practical solutions for sustainable cities

SCHOOL GARDEN CURRICULUM PACKAGES

The SPEC School Garden Program offers both facilitated individual lesson plans and curriculum packaged garden lessons for elementary and secondary school teachers and home learners. These lessons and activities are aligned with the BC curriculum in the areas of Science, Math and Art.

The individual lessons are based on the [Green Thumbs at School: SPEC Food Garden Lesson Plan Book](#) and consist of four units on topics such as soil and worms, seeds, leaves, flowers and pollination, insects, garden design and planning.

Below is a list of all current curriculum packages available to book for the school year.

For more information on the School Garden Program, available lessons and how to book, please visit our [website](#) .



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PACKAGE 1A: GARDENING 101 - FULL

(Grade 2 to 10)

\$850

Lesson: Fall Garden Clean-up and Mulching

Prepare the garden for the winter season by removing dead or decaying plants, harvest any remaining plants, save seeds and experiment to minimize soil erosion using either leaf mulch or cover crops as a winter mulch.

Lesson: Plant Life Cycles

Explore the topic of plant botany through interactive observations of a plant's very first stage of growth and identify what factors a plant requires to successfully germinate (light, water, temperature, nutrients).

Lesson: The Scoop on Soil

Explore and learn in this hands-on demonstration the important factors contributing to a healthy soil and what lives in it (earthworms, insects, microbes and bacteria). Students will assess their own soil in their school garden with a soil feel test.

Lesson: Pollination

Discover the process of pollination by observing and dissecting flowers. Better understand the role different types of pollinators play in our food system and the most commonly known pollinators and some surprising pollinators.

Lesson: Seasonal plantings (Fall, Spring and Summer)

Learn about how different crops grow in different seasons, what conditions are required, and how to use garden tools. Students will learn how to measure and plant seeds, how to create seasonal gardening plans, building knowledge about plant families, together, how to build a garden trellis, gardening with native plants and how to use garden tools.

Lesson: Beneficial Insects vs. Garden Pests

Explore the diversity of insects from beetles, ants, butterflies, bees, and flies that live in the garden. Uncover what makes them insects with a fun anatomy exploration. Students will learn about the good insects vs. the bad - the garden pests by collecting insects and examining pest damage in the garden.



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PACKAGE 1B: GARDENING 101: CONDENSED

(Grades 2 - 10)

\$700

Lesson: Fall Garden Clean-up and Mulching

Prepare the garden for the winter season by removing dead or decaying plants, harvest any remaining plants, save seeds and experiment minimize soil erosion using either leaf mulch or cover crops as a winter mulch.

Lesson: The Scoop on Soil

Explore and learn in this hands-on demonstration, the important factors contributing to a healthy soil and what lives in it (earthworms, insects, microbes and bacteria). Students will assess their own soil in their school garden with a soil feel test.

Lesson: Plant Life Cycles

Explore the various stages of growth of a plant, learn a little bit about a plant's biology and the different parts of all plants and their functions (i.e. the seed embryo, roots, shoots, leaves, stem) and the growing requirements of all plants.

Lesson: Seasonal plantings (Fall, Spring and Summer)

Learn about how different crops grow in different seasons, what conditions are required, and how to use garden tools. Students will learn how to measure and plant seeds, how to create seasonal gardening plans, building knowledge about plant families, together, how to build a garden trellis, gardening with native plants and how to use garden tools.

Lesson: Beneficial Insects vs. Garden Pests

Explore the diversity of insects from beetles, ants, butterflies, bees, and flies that live in the garden. Uncover what makes them insects with a fun anatomy exploration. Students will learn about the good insects vs. the bad - the garden pests by collecting insects and examining pest damage in the garden.



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PACKAGE 2A: POLLINATOR GARDEN

(Kindergarten to Grade 3)

\$550

Lesson: Pollination Study

Discover the process of pollination, how flowers use their shape, colour and scent to attract pollinators and how they reproduce by observing and dissecting flowers.

Lesson: Role of pollinators

Better understand the role different types of pollinators play in our food system and the most commonly known pollinators and some surprising pollinators in our gardens.

Lesson: Bees of British Columbia

Discover the various bee species we have in BC and what bees are native to the lower mainland. Explore some common types of bees we would find in our gardens, learn about their anatomy, how they live (not all live in hives) and the methods they use to collect nectar through observation.

Lesson: Building a pollinator garden - flowers to attract pollinators

Discover the best flowers (both annual and perennial) that attract pollinators like hummingbirds, bees, hoverflies and other pollinators to your garden. Plan and build a pollinator garden from scratch incorporating colour, texture and scent.



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PACKAGE 3: NATURE STUDIES

(Kindergarten to Grade 4)

\$550

***Lesson: Fall**

Study the changing seasons and the effects of weather patterns on nature. Learn how nature prepares for the upcoming winter season by observing spiders, the changing colours of leaves, animals collecting and storing seeds.

***Lesson: Winter**

Study the change in seasons from fall to winter by looking for patterns in weather and nature. We'll observe and learn about hibernation and birds that migrate here for the winter and the role they play.

***Lesson: Spring**

Study the change in seasons from winter to spring by looking for patterns in weather and nature. We'll observe and learn about how plants and wildlife are adapting and preparing for the spring and identify local birds in our neighbourhood.

***Lesson: Summer**

Study the change in seasons from spring to summer by looking for patterns in weather and nature. We'll observe and learn about the longer days, temperature, pollination and the ecosystem.

**These lessons are best suited for a neighbourhood park to observe urban wildlife and different habitats. Each lesson will include a scavenger hunt.*



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PACKAGE 4A: MONTHLY STEAM - FULL
\$1000

(Grades 5 - 12)

Lesson: October - Fall Garden Clean-up and Mulching

Prepare the garden for the winter season by removing dead or decaying plants, harvest any remaining plants, save seeds and experiment to minimize soil erosion and increase soil fertility using either leaf mulch or cover crops as a winter mulch. Choice of cover cropping or planting broad beans

Lesson: November - Testing and Amending Soil

Students will explore and learn through a hands-on demonstration, the important factors contributing to a healthy soil and what lives in it (earthworms, insects, microbes and bacteria). Students will assess their own soil in their school garden with a soil feel test and experiment with solutions to improve soil fertility.

Lesson: January - Gardening Planning and Design

Students will learn the basics to become successful in growing a garden by developing a garden plan on paper prior to planting. Learn about how different crops grow in different seasons, what conditions are required and how to both maximize the space in the garden by interplanting and keeping your garden growing all year long with succession planting.

Lesson: February - Plant Botany Part 1

Students will explore the topic of plant botany through interactive observations of a plant's very first stage of growth and identify what factors a plant requires to successfully germinate (light, water, temperature, nutrients).

Lesson: April - June - Seasonal Planting

Students will utilize the understanding of key gardening terms and methods by measuring and planting seeds, experiencing trial and error, increasing knowledge about plant families, building a garden trellis, gardening with native plants and learning how to properly use garden tools.



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Lesson: May - Plant Botany - Part 2

Students will develop a better understanding of botany which is an extension of the lesson in part 1. Explore the inner workings of all plants and how they survive and take in nutrients through their roots and shoots and the role of leaves and photosynthesis.

Lesson: June - Insects and Pest Damage

Students will examine the diversity of insects that live in the garden. Uncover what makes them insects with a fun anatomy exploration. Students will learn about the good insects vs. the bad - the garden pests by collecting insects and examining examples of plants with pest damage in the garden.



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PACKAGE 4B: STEAM - CONDENSED

(Grades 5 - 12)

\$700

Lesson: October - Fall Garden Clean-up and Mulching

Prepare the garden for the winter season by removing dead or decaying plants, harvest any remaining plants, save seeds and experiment to minimize soil erosion and increase soil fertility using either leaf mulch or cover crops as a winter mulch. Choice of cover cropping or planting broad beans

Lesson: February - Gardening Planning

Students will learn the basics to become successful in growing a garden by developing a garden plan on paper prior to planting. Learn about how different crops grow in different seasons, what conditions are required and how to both maximize the space in the garden by interplanting and keeping your garden growing all year long with succession planting.

Lesson: March - Plant Botany - Part 1

Students will explore the topic of plant botany through interactive observations of a plant's very first stage of growth and identify what factors a plant requires to successfully germinate (light, water, temperature, nutrients).

Lesson: April - Seasonal Plantings

Students will utilize the understanding of key gardening terms and methods by measuring and planting seeds, experiencing trial and error, increasing knowledge about plant families, building a garden trellis, gardening with native plants and learning how to properly use garden tools.

Lesson: June - Insects and Pest Damage

Students will examine the diversity of insects that live in the garden. Uncover what makes them insects with a fun anatomy exploration. Students will learn about the good insects vs. the bad - the garden pests by collecting insects and examining examples of plants with pest damage in the garden.