

**GARDEN GRANT OPPORTUNITY!**  
**Prior Grant Winner**  
**2016 - 2017 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 doing so, 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. The following schools are not eligible for the grant: pre-schools, community gardens, and colleges.

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 awarded over \$374,000 to more than 322 California schools for school garden projects. The Progress Application will be made available in November and is due by January 15 of the following year. **Applications will be accepted at any time, and reviewed following the January 15 deadline.** Grant recipients will be informed by April 1.

The grant application is included on the third page of this document. The application is not intended to be cumbersome; rather, it is your opportunity to provide insight into the garden projects you wish to continue to grow which has been previously funded through the foundations grant either in the categories of "start-up" or "existing." Schools will be required to wait three years from their first grant recipient status before re-applying for a "progress grant". As the application form states, photographs and a description of how your garden project has been implemented in the classroom are required. Please provide examples how the students have been taught about plant growth and plant health. Information on how you plan to teach about plant growth and plant health utilizing nitrogen (N), phosphorous (P), and potassium (K) fertilizers will strengthen your application. A nutrient information page has been added to the application on page 4 which goes into further details about N,P,K fertilizer and the importance of fertilization and plant growth. The fifth page has been added so that applicants can see how grant applications are evaluated.

Again, thank you for your interest. We encourage applicants to reapply often.

Best wishes on a successful garden.

*Kayla Gangl*

Kayla Gangl  
Director of Public Outreach and Communications

Enclosure



## SCHOOL GARDEN PROGRAM

- Purpose:** To provide funding for California public and private elementary, middle and high schools for continuation 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:** Previous grant recipients have the opportunity to re-apply for a "progress grant" of \$1,500 and a free agricultural field trip. Please include how the school has done further outreach within the community in regards to the garden and how it has impacted the students directly. Applicants are encouraged to include additional information with their application which goes into further detail on the garden and how it has grown since they received the first grant award of \$1,200. It would be requested that they explain the plans for continuing the growth of the school garden. A requirement of the application is for the school to present a breakdown of how the original grant has been spent and how the additional grant money would be spent.
- 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 agricultural 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, Strategic Initiative Leader, Sustainable Food Systems; 4-H Youth, Family and Community Development Advisor, Food and Society Policy Fellow, 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.



**2016-2017 CALIFORNIA FERTILIZER FOUNDATION  
SCHOOL GARDEN GRANT APPLICATION/COVER SHEET**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ (Applications are to be submitted electronically by January 15, 2017)

1. Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Year first received grant \_\_\_\_\_

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

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**Application should include (maximum of 15 pages) should be submitted electronically on or prior to January 15 deadlines:**

- Completed application form (must be the top page of your application)
- Cover letter
- Itemized breakdown on how original grant money was spent and how additional funds will be used.
- Explanation of how further outreach has been done since the first grant was awarded.
- Description of connections between the garden, classroom and academic standards.
- Photos/diagram of garden.
- News clippings and other supporting materials.
- Long-term plans for your garden.
- After completing all the required steps please include all information in **one PDF** for submission.

**E-mail completed electronic submission to:** Callie Borrer, California Fertilizer Foundation at [cffgrant@healthyplants.org](mailto:cffgrant@healthyplants.org). **Grantees will be notified of their awards by April 1.**



### **Fertilizer Information Page**

Please review the explanation below on how Nitrogen, Phosphorous, and Potassium can be part of your garden program. Plant growth and plant health all work together with the soil as the fertilizer is utilized by the plant for optimal growth.

Nitrogen, Phosphorous, and Potassium are the most common crop nutrients and all exist naturally. N, P, and K are all part of the 17 chemical elements required for plant growth and reproduction.

Nitrogen (N) is a main building block for all organisms. It exists naturally in the air and is needed to produce, among other substances, proteins, chlorophyll, DNA and RNA. N is approximately 80% of the air we breathe. N, along with magnesium is the only element in the chlorophyll molecule that the plant obtains from the soil. Plant growth is associated with N nutrition, as N plays a major role in cell division. In addition to increasing yield, N also improves crop quality as it increases the protein content. Crop plants tend to require more N to grow at their full potential over non-crop plants.

Phosphorous (P) is found in all living cells. P is a component of DNA and ATP (the cell's energy molecule) as it helps store and transmit energy during photosynthesis. It assists in capturing light during photosynthesis, helping with seed germination, and helping plants use water efficiently. Plants also use P when fighting external stress and prevent disease. All plants require photosynthesis during the entire growth period. Most annual plants which grow, reproduce and die in a year require a lot of P. Plants growing in cold climates, have limited roots and rapid top growth including lettuce are high phosphorous users. Legume crops require a great amount of P. Plants which are established including: trees, shrubs, and vines especially grown in warm climates, require very little P fertilizer. P is usually applied near the root zone. It is known as banding and the P is available for immediate adsorption by the roots. Growers often mix P into the soil when planting seedlings or transplanting trees.

Potassium (K) is essential to the workings of every living cell, and is often known as the regulator since it is involved in over 60 different enzyme systems in plants. K helps plants resist drought and effects from excess temperatures. It also increases the crops resistance to pests. K aids plants in the production of starches, controls root growth, and regulates the opening and closing of pores in plant cells which is key for efficient water use. All plants require potassium at some level. K fertilizer is applied for optimum plant growth.

Nutrients are an essential part of plant growth. You can determine the percentage of a nutrient by reading the label on the fertilizer bag. An example of an N, P, and K fertilizer is 15-15-15. More information or details about plant nutrition is available via the Western Fertilizer Handbook.



## **“Evaluation Sheet”**

**Each application is scored on the following breakdown by category listed below:**

California Fertilizer Foundation School Garden Program Category:

- 1) Application/Cover Sheet – General thoroughness
- 2) Involvement - strong student, parent, staff involvement
- 3) Support – letters of support from faculty, students, teacher(s), members within the community
- 4) Breakdown of how original funds were used, how additional money will be used to grow the garden area.
- 5) Photos – photos of existing garden site are included, plans of expansion
- 6) Students - letters of support, photos convey strong student involvement
- 7) Plant Growth & Plant Health/Soil Science/Agriculture Connections – descriptions show that these concepts are being taught.
- 8) Education – supporting information provides evidence of how the garden is/will be utilized to enhance curriculum/education.