

**GARDEN GRANT OPPORTUNITY!**  
**New Applicant**  
**2023 - 2024 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 and plant nutrition 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. **During the 2023 - 2024 school years, CFF will award up to 24 garden grants of \$1,200 each. Applications will be accepted at any time, and reviewed twice a year in the Fall and Spring. The current deadline has been tentatively set to May 26, 2023.**

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 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 or will be implemented in the classroom are required. 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 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. As CFF limits grants to 24 grants per year, we encourage applicants to feel free to reapply if they are not successful in their initial grant attempt.

Best wishes on a successful garden.

*Kayla Gangl*

Kayla Gangl  
Director of Public Outreach and Communication

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 2023 - 2024 school years, CFF will award up to 24 grants of \$1,200 each to schools in California, in the categories of Start-Up or Existing Gardens.

Schools can apply for this grant in order to use the money towards the beautification of their campus.

**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.

*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.* La Fetra Elementary School, Glendora, CA.



**2023-2024 CALIFORNIA FERTILIZER FOUNDATION  
SCHOOL GARDEN GRANT APPLICATION/COVER SHEET**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ (Applications are to be submitted electronically by **May 26, 2022**)

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

School District: \_\_\_\_\_

Is your school: \_\_\_\_\_ Distance Learning or: \_\_\_\_\_ In person learning?

If in person, how long have you been back in session? \_\_\_\_\_

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. 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) should be submitted electronically on or prior to the November 11, 2022 Fall deadline:**

- Completed application form (must be the top page of your application)
- Cover letter
- Description of connections between the garden, classroom, and academic standards.
- Information on how you plan to teach about plant growth and plant health. (See page 4 for N, P, K descriptions)
- Letters of support including: (students, principal, volunteers, community members, etc.)
- Itemized breakdown of how funds will be used.
- Photos/diagram of garden or if a new garden, where the garden will be located.
- 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:** Kayla Gangl, California Fertilizer Foundation at [cffgrant@healthyplants.org](mailto:cffgrant@healthyplants.org).

### **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. Nitrogen, Phosphorous, and Potassium 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 nitrogen 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.

Phosphorus (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 P 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 phosphorous is available for immediate absorption 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 K 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 found on a fertilizer bag. An example of an N, P, K fertilizer is 15-15-15. More information or details about plant nutrition can be found via the Western Fertilizer Handbook.



## **“Evaluation Sheet”**

**Each application is evaluated 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, teachers
- 4) Photos – photos of existing/planned garden site are included
- 5) Students - letters of support, photos convey strong student involvement
- 6) Education – supporting information provides evidence of how the garden is/will be utilized to enhance curriculum/education
- 7) Plant Growth & Plant Health/Soil Science/Agriculture Connections – descriptions show that these concepts will be taught.