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GOVERNOR EVERS DECLARES MAY 21, 2019 WISCONSIN SCHOOL GARDEN DAY Educators continue to provide garden-based education during the COVID-19 pandemic

**[MADISON, WISCONSIN, May 15, 2020 --]** By Governor's Proclamation, Governor Tony Evers is declaring May 21, 2020 the second annual Wisconsin School Garden Day.

Wisconsin is a leader in garden-based education. This is a day to honor all of the people and programs that bring gardens and gardening to Wisconsin youth. Now, more than ever, we are seeing youth garden educators display resilience, innovation, and creativity as gardens continue to serve as an essential part of children's education.

The week of May 21, hundreds of Wisconsin educators, youth, and families will engage in indoor and outdoor garden activities in celebration of Wisconsin School Garden Day.

"Gardens are a place where curricular education comes to life, and educators across Wisconsin have found truly creative ways to continue providing opportunities for hands-on garden-based learning during school closures." explains Wisconsin School Garden Network Communications Director, Renata Solan. "Arbor Vitae-Woodruff Elementary School, for example, is providing "grow kits" for students during school lunch pick-up. Sarah Karlson, who provides farm and gardening education for students at Badger Rock Middle School in Madison, will be giving a virtual tour of the school's farm to allow students to reconnect with the space. Educators at Colby Elementary School are maintaining the school's garden so it's available to students when school starts up again. They're harvesting greens from the school's indoor farming system and students are being served those greens in the lunches they pick up."

<u>The Wisconsin School Garden Network</u> is supported by the Cultivate Health Initiative, which is a joint project of Rooted, a 501c(3) organization, and the UW Madison Environmental Design Lab. Funding for the Wisconsin School Garden Network is provided by the Wisconsin Partnership Program at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Renata Solan at <a href="mailto:renata@rootedwi.org">renata@rootedwi.org</a>. You can read more about Wisconsin School Garden Day <a href="mailto:here">here</a>.