



## **Wisconsin School Garden Day 2021**

**May 20, 2021 is  
WISCONSIN SCHOOL GARDEN DAY!**

Wisconsin School Garden Day honors and celebrates educators, students, families, community leaders, and all people who have made garden-based education a reality and an asset in communities throughout the state! Wisconsin School Garden Day brings recognition to our state's hundreds of garden programs at schools, early care and education sites, after school programs, organizations, and more. And, this year, to the families who are engaging their children in garden-based learning during school closures.

This guide has information to help you participate in Wisconsin School Garden Day in the garden and on social media. If you have any questions, please contact Wisconsin School Garden Network staff [Renata Solan](#) (Communications Director) or [Erica Krug](#) (Outreach Specialist).

Please remember that these are just suggestions. The beauty of garden-based education is that there are infinite permutations and every program is unique. We encourage everyone to participate in a way that best fits your family, child(ren), or program.

### **Promoting Wisconsin School Garden Day on social media**

Wisconsin School Garden Day 2020 will be using the following hashtags:

**#WISchoolGardenDay**

**#WISchoolGardens**

We will be using Twitter and Facebook to share information about Wisconsin School Garden Day 2021, including examples of how people across the state plan to participate. If you would like to share how you plan to participate in Wisconsin School Garden Day, please use the hashtags above or email Wisconsin School Gardens Network Communications Director [Renata Solan](#) ([renata@rootedwi.org](mailto:renata@rootedwi.org)).

## How to participate in Wisconsin School Garden Day

You can participate in Wisconsin School Garden Day by engaging in some type of garden-based education activity or celebration on May 20, 2021 (or another day that week).

Activities should fit the needs of your program, so you can celebrate with your students face-to-face, virtually, or in a hybrid model. Whether you have access to raised beds, some potted herbs, seeds germinating on a countertop, or online youth garden programming, you can participate in Wisconsin School Garden Day.

You may have an activity in mind. That's great! If you are looking for suggestions, we've compiled a list below. And if you're looking for more guidance or inspiration, please reach out to [Wisconsin School Garden Network Staff](#).

### Remote Learning

- Visit our [Youth Gardening During COVID-19](#) resource page, developed specifically for teachers to engage with students remotely and for parents to create their own garden education opportunities at home.
- Many of the indoor and outdoor activities below can be adapted for remote and hybrid learning.

### Indoor Activities

- Garden-related crafts
  - [Bean seed necklaces](#) - Create a living necklace that can be worn as is or used to learn about germination.
  - [Paper plate garden](#) - Create a garden out of paper plates, paint and/or markers, and construction paper. This activity could easily pair with a lesson on essential elements plants need to grow (sun, water, air, soil, space, etc.) or even the parts of a flower
  - [Seed paper](#) - Here is a great way to recycle paper to produce a fun way to plant out your garden! Use these at school or have kids take them home.
    - [Botanical paper](#) - You can add things to paper like leaves and petals!
    - [Seed Tape](#) - This is similar to seed paper but less labor-intensive.
  - [Seed Balls](#) - Follow this activity guide using just soil, water, and seeds to help create balls that, when planted, will result in native plants around your site.
  - [Seed mosaic](#) - Use leftover or old seeds to create seed mosaics. This fun art project can help work on fine motor skills and color recognition for younger learners, and will lead to beautiful pieces of art for older students. The result is art that illustrates the many morphological differences among seeds.
- Plant seeds! Plant in old milk cartons, egg cartons, seed trays, or [paper pots](#) to start plants growing indoors. Check out this [blog](#) to prepare yourself for planting with kids.
- [Persuasive Writing](#) - In this lesson, students will use a variety of strategies to convince their peers to choose a given theme or design for their garden.

- [Story time](#) - There are many great books for kids of all ages that highlight the beauty and magic of the garden.
- Math and spatial planning
  - [Square foot gardening](#) - Whether your garden is all planned out for the year, is still coming together, or has not yet been built, thinking about what to plant where is a great way to draw STEM connections that will require critical thinking and teamwork.
  - [Planning a garden](#), real or imaginary, is an exercise in math. How many plants can we fit in an area? How much wood do we need for a raised bed? How many beds of a given size can we fit with paths between them wide enough for a wheelbarrow?
- [Build a worm compost bin](#) - Creating a compost bin introduces the life cycle and provides future opportunities for teaching about decomposition, waste reduction, and recycling.
- [Make a tasty treat](#) - This collection of recipes features garden produce available in early spring.

### Outdoor Activities

Many activities can be adapted for remote and hybrid learning or be adjusted to be in compliance with COVID-19 safety protocol. The CDC has provided helpful guidelines for [outdoor learning gardens](#) and we produced a [Social Distance Learning Wisconsin School Garden Network Brief](#) to help educators develop safe in-person learning opportunities.

- [Plan out your garden space](#) - This guide offers directions on how to direct seed or transplant seedlings into your garden. There are also great suggestions for programs looking to source free or discounted seeds. We have compiled a list to help you get your garden growing!
- [Quick “back pocket” activities](#) - These are all quick, easy, and highly engaging activities that require minimal preparation.
- [Prepare a garden bed](#) - This guide offers suggestions and will spark ideas for different types of garden beds.
- Engage the senses - The garden is the perfect learning environment to engage all of the senses. Below are some activity suggestions for garden learners of all ages:
  - [Design a Sensory Garden](#)
  - Smell and taste: Harvest herbs for students to try
  - Sight: Journaling, searching for emerging seedlings, ongoing measurements/observations of plant size and density
  - Sound: Journaling, listening for birds, [creating a sound map](#)
  - Touch: Dig into the ground in different parts of the garden to see if the soil varies, feel different leaves and think about why leaf morphology differs
- [Six of One, Half Dozen of the Other](#) - In this lesson students use their senses to identify and classify objects in the garden
- [Garden Scavenger Hunt](#)
- [Rainbow Chips](#) - Go on a garden adventure to learn more about colors and the natural world, and work on matching.

- [Flower Tape Bracelets](#) - Roam the garden to find flowers, leaves, and herbs to create a beautiful flower bracelet.
- [Explore the garden site in search of biodiversity](#) - older students may expand this idea to map out species richness vs. species diversity or develop hypotheses about the landscape

**Whatever you do to celebrate Wisconsin School Garden Day, be sure to let us know!** Post photos on social media, email us, tell your friends and colleagues. And don't forget to use the hashtags (**#WISchoolGardenDay**, **#WISchoolGardens**) so that we can find your posts and share!