



Wisconsin School Garden Day 2026

**May 21, 2026 is the 8th annual
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.

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/ Rooted Farm to School Director [Erica Krug](mailto:erica@rootedwi.org) (erica@rootedwi.org.)

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

Promoting Wisconsin School Garden Day on social media

Wisconsin School Garden Day 2026 will be using the following hashtags:

#WISchoolGardenDay

#WISchoolGardens

We will be using Instagram and Facebook to share information about Wisconsin School Garden Day 2026, 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 Erica Krug (erica@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 21, 2026 (or another day that week.) 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.

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

- [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 for you to help you get your garden growing!
- [Quick “back pocket” activities](#) - These are all quick, easy, and highly engaging activities that require minimal preparation.
- 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!