



**The National Gardening Association surveyed the 2011 Youth Garden Grant recipients to capture quantitative and qualitative data on the grant's impact. The following is a summary of the results.**

Grant package: 11 recipients received a \$1,000 prize package including a \$500 gift certificate to the Gardening with Kids Catalog and a \$250 check for planting materials and locally sourced supplies.

Number of applicants .....	133
Number of recipients .....	11
Number of evaluation respondents .....	10

*\* 1 winner requested an extension to the report deadline.*

Following is a summary of the highlights from those responses.

**Number of children who participated in grant winning programs:**

Age 2-5 (preschool-K) .....	339
Ages 6-8 (grades 1-3) .....	609
Ages 9-11 (grades 4-6) .....	565
Ages 12-13 (grades 7-8) .....	132
Ages 14-18 (grades 9-12) .....	151
Ages 18+ (adults) .....	239
Total participants .....	2,035



**This grant has helped us to support our edible schoolyard and has increased the connection between gardening, art, and nutrition. The Columbia Heights High School incorporated art classes into garden curriculum by creating glazed tiles for the garden focused on nutrition education and plant identification."**

- Kristen Stuenkel  
Columbia Heights Public Schools  
Minnesota



# 2011 MIDWEST AWARD YEAR-END REPORT



## Demographic Information

Anglo American .....	1,385
African American .....	361
Latino .....	215
Asian .....	7
Native American .....	7
Other .....	9
Female .....	1,061
Male .....	934

## Eligible for free or reduced lunch program (average):

1,034 participants receive free or reduced lunch program  
50% on average

## Hours per week a participating child/youth was involved in gardening activities:

Average time ..... 3 hours / week

## Months of the year respondents conducted garden gardening programs:

Average time ..... 6.5 months / year

## Type of organizations responding:

Public school .....	80%
Nonprofit agency .....	10%
Private school .....	10%

## Types of audiences participating in these programs:

In-school .....	100%
After-school .....	60%
Community gardeners .....	60%
Special needs .....	50%

Summer program / Camp .....	40%
Intergenerational .....	30%
Youth club .....	30%
Gifted and talented .....	20%
Preschool / Head start .....	10%

## Location classification of winners responding:

Urban .....	30%
Suburban .....	20%
Rural .....	50%

## Publicity of these gardening programs in the media:

Newletter articles .....	64%
Newspaper articles .....	36%
Features on websites .....	36%

*\* Program coordinators also cited workshop presentations both in the United States and internationally.*

## Program continuation:

100% of respondents indicating they plan to continue their program next year.

## Reported evidence documenting the effectiveness of these gardening programs:

Positive responses from participants .....	100%
Positive responses from administrators .....	100%
Positive community responses .....	90%
Positive responses from family members .....	70%
Donations and financial support .....	60%
Positive survey results .....	50%
Awards and recognition .....	50%
Decrease in disciplinary actions .....	10%



### Subjects taught through the gardening programs:

Science .....	100%
Health and nutrition .....	100%
Community service .....	80%
Arts .....	80%
English .....	60%
Math .....	60%
Intra / Interpersonal relationships .....	50%
Cultural studies / Issues .....	50%
History .....	40%
Social studies .....	30%
Physical education .....	20%
Interdisciplinary .....	20%

### Program leaders noted participant improvements in these characteristics:

Environmental attitudes .....	80%
Nutritional attitudes .....	80%
Community spirit .....	80%
Self confidence .....	80%
Leadership skills .....	80%
Volunteerism .....	80%
Social skills .....	70%
Attitude towards school .....	70%
Scholastic achievement .....	40%
Motor skills .....	30%

### Percentage of time spent on different instructional techniques:

Adult-led investigation/hands-on activities .....	33%
Collaborative project work .....	27%
Student-led investigation/hands-on activities .....	15%
Lecture .....	13%
Independent Learning .....	11%



**Our students and families LOVE our garden. They spend hours after school and on their own time taking care of it and enjoying being outside! On many occasions students will run and get a parent, teacher or friend to show them something that they found in the garden."**

- Dan Schnitzer  
Academy for Global Citizenship  
Illinois



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## Curriculum used by the gardening programs:

Developed a curriculum by combining resources and activities from numerous sources .....	70%
Created an original curriculum .....	50%
Curriculum from a Cooperative Extension .....	40%
Curriculum written by state education department .....	20%
Curriculum written by school district .....	10%
Several schools cited using Project Learning Tree materials and lessons from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee	

## Compliance with State and National Education

### Standards:

90% of respondents said they connected their gardening program to State and National Education Standards.

### Importance of linking to the standards for respondents:

Mandatory .....	40%
Important .....	10%
Somewhat important .....	40%
Not important .....	40%

### Approximate amount of money spent on these gardening programs:

Less than \$250 .....	10%
\$251 to \$500 .....	10%
\$501 to \$1000 .....	10%
\$1001 to \$1500 .....	40%
\$1501 to \$2000 .....	10%
\$2001 to \$2500 .....	10%
Over \$2501 .....	10%

### Approximate value of in-kind donations of these gardening programs:

Less than \$250 .....	9%
Between \$251 to \$500 .....	23%
Between \$501 to \$1000 .....	32%
Between \$1001 to \$1500 .....	5%
Between \$1501 to \$2000 .....	5%
Between \$2001 to \$2500 .....	0%
Over \$2501 .....	27%

### Average percentage of funding these programs received from other sources:

Grants .....	56%
Donations .....	19%
Fund Raising .....	7%
Parent or Volunteer Organizations .....	3%
School or School District Funds .....	9%
Instructor's pocket .....	4%
Other .....	1%

### Programs purchased the following materials for their garden programs:

Composting equipment, rain barrels, outdoor tools, observation tools, plant markers, outdoor seating, seedlings and plants, soil, nutrition guides, books (Curricula), food dehydrator, classroom activity materials for garden artwork, educational posters and tuition for staff professional development.



Project Greenthumb has had a tremendous impact on our school and facility. The students earn credits toward their high school diploma and valuable work skills that they could utilize in the community. Project Greenthumb has also contributed to other educational programs offered by our school. The program provided many of the materials (vegetables) to the school's ProStart Cooking Class and those meals were then served to our student population. The student's work ethic and attitudes of Project Greenthumb appeared to grow and improve as the growing season progressed. It seemed to show the students that the hard work of preparing fertile beds reaped rewards of healthy vegetables later in the season. Many of Project Greenthumb's participants lacked the confidence to do something positive in the community prior to their incarceration; Project Greenthumb provides them with the confidence and experience of learning something new and doing something positive."

- Jacob Berst  
Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility Community High School