Nutrition in the Garden

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Garden Curricula

Seven suggested garden curricula added to the Arizona Nutrition Network list.

Three are on SNAP ED Connection; one is part of Junior Master Gardener.

Incorporate approved Nutrition and Physical Activity messages.



School and Community Gardens

Cropping up everywhere!

Lots of opportunity for collaboration and intergenerational wellness activities.

Multiple agencies have guidelines/resources for school gardens.



School and Community Garden Collaboration

Started in January 2012 to bring agencies together to ensure consistent quidelines and support.

Arizona Department of Health Services Arizona Department of Education University of Arizona College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

ADHS - SNAP Ed, Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, Environmental Services

ADE - Farm to School Program, School Garden Program

UA, CALS - Master Gardener Program, Ag Literacy Program, Community Garden Program



Next Step for Collaboration

Create an Arizona School Garden Network -

- information clearinghouse
- support for school personnel, nutrition educators, families, volunteers and community members
- encouragement for the creation and maintenance of safe and healthy gardens in every school.



What's Happening

School Garden Sanitarian hired by ADHS

Purpose: to support and authorize school gardens to use produce as approved source in school food service

Bridge the gap between school food service and local health authorities (county health departments)



School Garden Letter

Written by ADHS School Garden Sanitarian to Supporters of School Gardens to explain Certification



To School Administrators, Teachers, Nutrition Educators, School Food Service Directors

Instructions for schools that wish to use produce from school garden in school food service - as Approved Source.



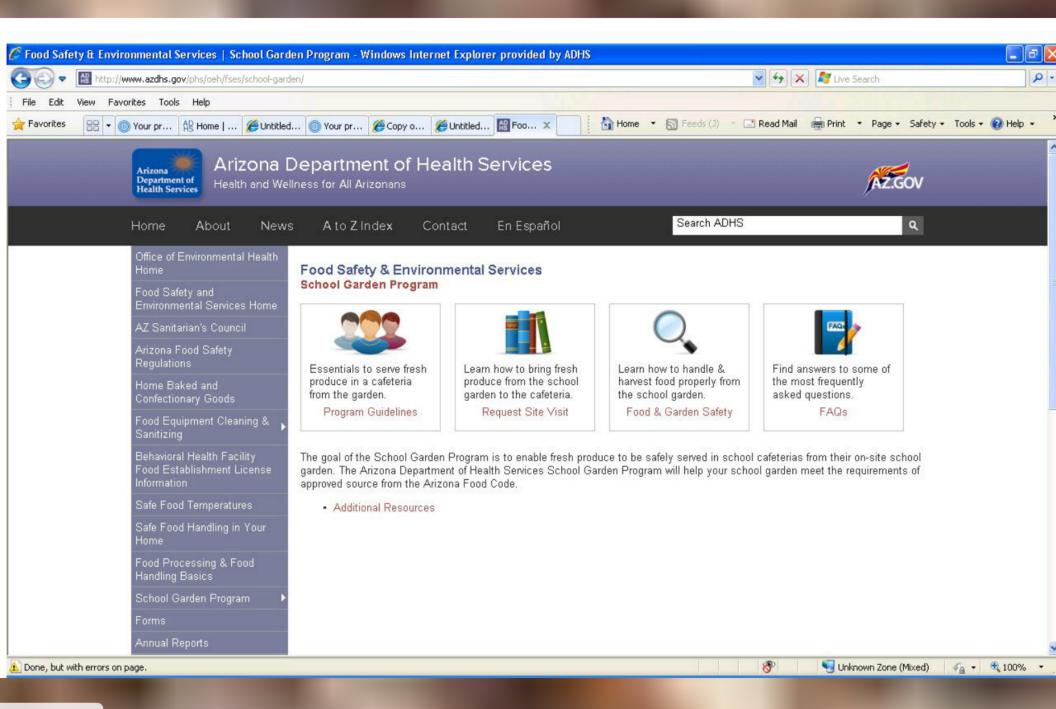
Certification of School Gardens

Recognized by Local Health
Authorities

Based on School Garden
Guidelines

ADHS has new School Garden web page for this purpose







School Gardens wishing to be certified must:

Adhere to School Garden Guidelines

Test Soil for Lead (free through ADHS lab)

Submit required forms (on website) including request for Site Visit



Site Visit/Certification

After Sanitarian reviews documents, a site visit will be scheduled.

If all criteria met, one year certificate issued.

County Health Departments recognize this as acknowledgment of a safe Approved Source for school food Service.



Remember...

Certification is only required for those schools that wish to use the produce grown in their school gardens in their cafeteria.



Safe Gardening is good practice for everyone

Free classes are available through the U of A Cooperative Extension.



Resources for School and Community Gardens



Arizona Master Gardeners (including me!)

Arizona Department of Education

University of Arizona, CALS

and last but not least....



Arizona Nutrition Network

eatwellbewell.org

Collaboration between community partners grows the best gardens!

