

**May 2016**

## **It's a Wrap!**



For most of you, this will be the last garden newsletter for the FY16 School Year! Thank you for your input and your support as we moved through our first official garden newsletter year together. I'm looking forward to another exciting year, next year! The intention is to continue bringing meaningful information your way that will contribute to the success of your school garden.

**Have a beautiful summer!**

**Upcoming Event - FREE!  
This Week!**



### Localecopia Meet and Greet

Teachers are welcome to attend -- many fun items to taste!

#### **The Breakers Palm Beach**

One South County Road  
Palm Beach, FL 33480

**Wednesday, May 25th**  
**1pm to 3pm**

(For more details either click the link or the picture above).



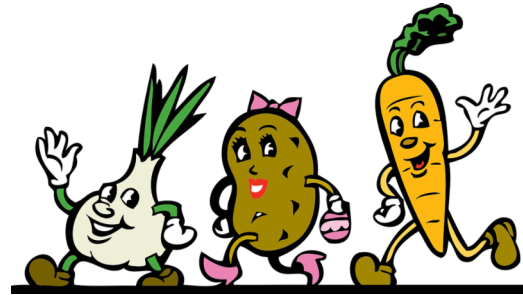
#### **A huge thank you to the following schools that completed the garden survey:**

- |                              |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Banyan Creek Elementary      | Marsh Point Elementary     |
| Belvedere Elementary         | Northmore Elementary       |
| Binks Forest Elementary      | Okeeheelee Middle          |
| Eagles Landing Middle        | Omni Middle                |
| Equestrian Trails Elementary | Pahokee High               |
| Everglades Elementary        | Pioneer Park Elementary    |
| Forest Hill Elementary       | Plumosa School of the Arts |
| Freedom Shores Elementary    | Poinciana Elementary       |
| Hidden Oaks Elementary       | Roosevelt Elementary       |

Independence Middle  
Lantana Elementary  
Lincoln Elementary  
Loxahatchee Groves Elementary

Roosevelt Middle  
Royal Palm Beach Elementary  
Starlight Cove Elementary  
Woodlands Middle

## FY16 - Garden Survey



There's still time! If you haven't already done so, please take a moment to complete the garden survey. Even if you don't currently have a garden on your campus, please complete the survey. Your input allows us to maintain accurate records with regard to the number of schools with gardens in our district and what we are growing. Additionally, this information allows us to seek garden grants that each school may be eligible for. Click the link above or either picture to access the survey. Thank you!

## TED Video

### Stephen Ritz: A Teacher Growing in the South Bronx



Check out this inspirational message about growing food and the willingness to change a community! Absolutely incredible!

**How will your ideas grow?**

## Harvest Day Celebrations

In April and May, the School Food Service (SFS) team partnered with the American Heart Association and held planned Harvest Day Celebrations at these schools.

**Banyan Creek Elementary**  
**Benoist Farms Elementary**  
**Elbridge Gale Elementary**  
**Glade View Elementary**  
**Grassy Waters Elementary**  
**Hammock Pointe Elementary**  
**JC Mitchell Elementary**  
**Jupiter Elementary**  
**KEC / Canal Point Elementary**  
**Lincoln Elementary**



To demonstrate the value of school gardens and growing healthy food, the SFS team provided samples of a Kale Apple Salad to over 7,500 students during their lunch meal service to celebrate the scheduled harvest days for the schools above. Not only did the children love how their school cafeteria was transformed into a "farmer" theme, the feedback regarding the salad samples was AMAZING! In fact, many of the students and teachers requested the [recipe](#)!

Twenty-six percent of the students completed the survey. Here are the results:

Grade	Thumbs Up	Thumbs in the Middle	Thumbs Down	Didn't Try
Pre K / K	50%	8%	16%	25%
1st Grade	50%	18%	16%	16%
2nd Grade	58%	18%	16%	8%
3rd Grade	49%	22%	20%	9%
4th Grade	50%	23%	18%	9%
5th Grade	63%	14%	12%	12%

**Impressive Results! Wouldn't you agree?**

## Shutting down your garden for the summer?

## Solarize!



(Click the link above for more information about solarization).

## Learning Opportunities!

### Coming in June -- Back by Popular Demand!

<p>Palm Beach County  <b>UF</b>   <b>IFAS Extension</b>  <small>UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA</small></p>  <p><i>Solutions for your life</i></p> <p><b>WORKSHOP FEE IS WAIVED FOR PBC SCHOOL DISTRICT TEACHERS!</b></p> <p>You must register for this event to attend for FREE!</p> <p>Contact: Melissa Allman via email to reserve your seat. <a href="mailto:mallman@pbcgov.com">mallman@pbcgov.com</a></p>	<p><b>"Farm your Backyard"</b></p> <p><b>Date:</b> Saturday, June 11, 2016</p> <p><b>Time:</b> 8:30am to 2pm</p> <p><b>Location:</b> Mounts Botanical Garden Hutchinson Complex - Exhibit Hall A 531 North Military Trail West Palm Beach, FL 33415</p>
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### "Farm your Backyard"

Learn the secrets of vegetable gardening in South Florida. The focus of this workshop is to implement successful agriculture strategies to manage small vegetable garden projects. Tips and techniques for on site preparation, seedling

establishment, planting, maintenance and harvesting will be covered. A tour of the Mounts vegetable garden will finish the program.

### Presenters:

- Arthur Kirstein, Coordinator of Agricultural Economic Development
- Mike Page, Mounts Botanical Garden Horticulturalist



### Registration for the Summer School Garden Workshop is now open!

This two day workshop (June 14-15th) is sponsored by FAITC, UF/IFAS Family Nutrition Program, FDACS Farm to School, 4-H, UF/IFAS Extension and Bok Tower Gardens. The registration fee is \$30. Click the link above to register.

#### **Workshop Location:**

Bok Tower Gardens  
1151 Tower Blvd.  
Lake Wales, FL 33853

- Come learn to create and maintain an edible garden at your school
- Use gardening as a teaching tool for many subjects
- Receive lesson plans and hands-on gardening activities for your students
- Visit an award-winning school garden
- Receive 12 CEUs
- Workshop is open to formal and informal educators interested in school gardening

#### **Agenda:**

##### **Day One:**

- Gardening for Nutrition, presented by Florida Ag in the Classroom
- Harvest of the Month lessons and a Strategic Planning Session for School Gardens, presented by FDACS Farm to School
- Dig In and Great Garden Detective, presented by UF/IFAS Family Nutrition Program

**All attendees will receive free copies of all lessons and curriculum.**

### Day Two:

- UF/IFAS Extension and Bok Tower Gardens Partnership, UF/IFAS Family Nutrition Program and FDACS Farm to School will be holding hands on sessions that will cover the following topics:
  - Seed Starting/Seasonal Planting
  - Soil Health / Composting / Vermicomposting
  - Integrated Pest Management
  - Plant ID
  - Irrigation
  - Field Trip to a school site to see their working hydroponic program.

The Florida Department of Ag has provided the following locations if you plan to attend the conference:

#### Hampton Inn, Lake Wales

863 734-3000

#### Holiday Inn Express, Lake Wales

863 949-4800

**I will be attending this workshop and I hope to see you there!**



### Seed Money

Click above or on the picture to the left for the most recent grant information. When we are in between newsletters, current grant information is available on our **Garden Webpage.**

## Garden Resources

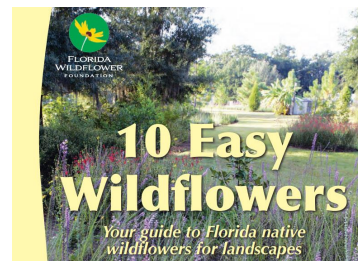
### School Garden Development Guide FY16

This guide is an excellent resource to keep handy! Access the guide by clicking the link above.



### 10 Easy Wildflowers

From the Florida Wildflower Foundation, check out this wonderful guide to Florida native wildflower landscaping options. Extremely informative especially for wildflower enthusiasts!



### La Florida - Land of Flowers

If you're interested in incorporating more Florida Native Plants into your garden, check out this interesting guide to Ornamental Horticulture.



Grow to Learn is a comprehensive guide to school gardening that was created and is supported by UF/IFAS Extension and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Take a look!



## Nutrition Education and the Garden





Using the lessons provided by the Fresh from Florida's [Harvest of the Month Program](#), teachers have the opportunity to bring gardening into the classroom. Introducing a variety of math, science, social studies and language arts lessons, students learn about the nutritional benefits of a featured fruit or vegetable each month. **Watermelon is in the spotlight for May.** Bookmarks, puzzles, stickers, and parent newsletters containing recipes are also included in the information provided.

Teachers can sign up to receive packets for their students each month which contain puzzles, bookmarks, stickers, lessons, and parent newsletters containing recipes about the featured item. Take a look to see if this is an opportunity that you'd like to incorporate into your classroom. Please share with other teachers at your school too!

**[Register NOW to receive materials for the Fall 2016 term!](#)**

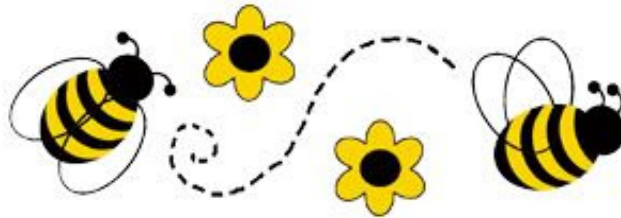
## Save the Earth ... Recycle!



Interested in recycling on your school campus?  
To learn more about our District's recycling initiative, contact:  
[Lisa.Toy@palmbeachschools.org](mailto:Lisa.Toy@palmbeachschools.org)

## Thanks for Buzzing By!

Share our newsletter, "Let's Grow" with your principal, teachers, students and anyone else at your school who is interested in learning more about the garden.



[Sign up for our newsletter here!](#)

**"Let's Grow"**

**Jeannine Rizzo**  
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**School Garden Liaison**  
**561-882-1904 / PX 21904**  
**[District Garden Webpage](#)**