



# CURRICULUM LINKED GARDEN-BASED EDUCATION

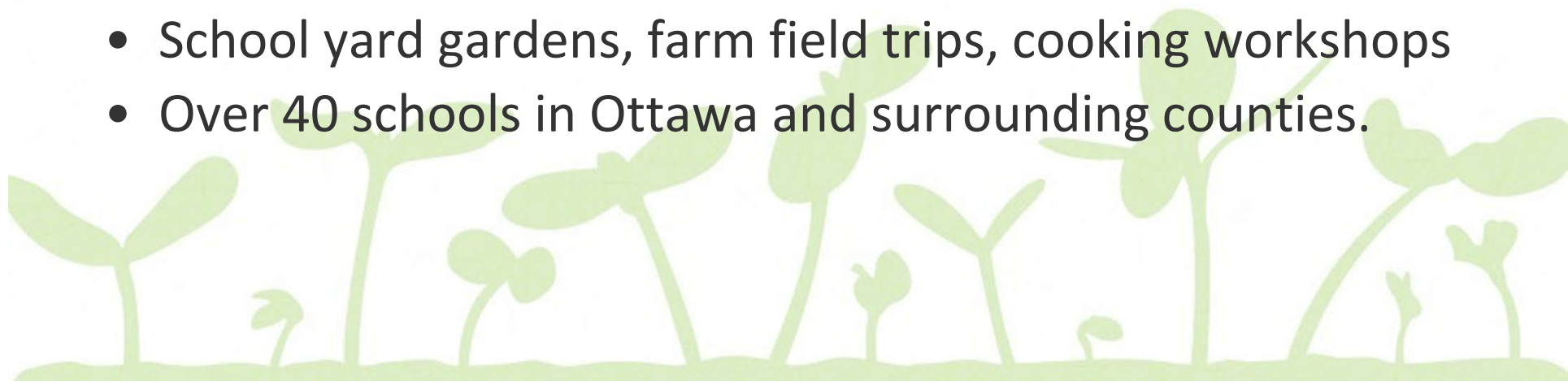
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*Project Manager*





Canadian Organic Growers  
Cultivons Biologique Canada  
Ottawa - St. Lawrence - Outaouais Chapter  
Section d'Ottawa - Saint Laurent - Outaouais

- Project of Canadian Organic Growers Ottawa-St-Lawrence-Outaouais Chapter (COG OSO)
- Aims to foster a generation of children and youth with greater food literacy, life-long healthy eating habits, increased food skills and an understanding of environmental health issues
- School yard gardens, farm field trips, cooking workshops
- Over 40 schools in Ottawa and surrounding counties.



- Why organic school gardens
  - Garden-based learning
  - Creating a school garden
- GUO workshops and resources

*“How to Grow an Outdoor Classroom”*



# Why School Gardens



*Connecting to place.*

*Having an impact.*



*Understanding connections.*



# Why School Gardens



*“What we are calling for is a revolution in public education - the delicious revolution. when the hearts and minds of our children are captured by a school lunch curriculum, enriched with experience in the garden, sustainability will become the lense through which they see the world.”*

*-Alice Waters*

# Why School Gardens



As a space for bridging across disciplines  
As a hands-on tool to meet **curriculum** goals  
To encourage **academic** achievement

# Why School Gardens

As a space for social and emotional learning



# Why School Gardens



To increase fruit and vegetable consumption and create healthy eating habits

To foster environmental stewardship





# Why School Gardens



As community  
building tools



To build school pride  
and belonging

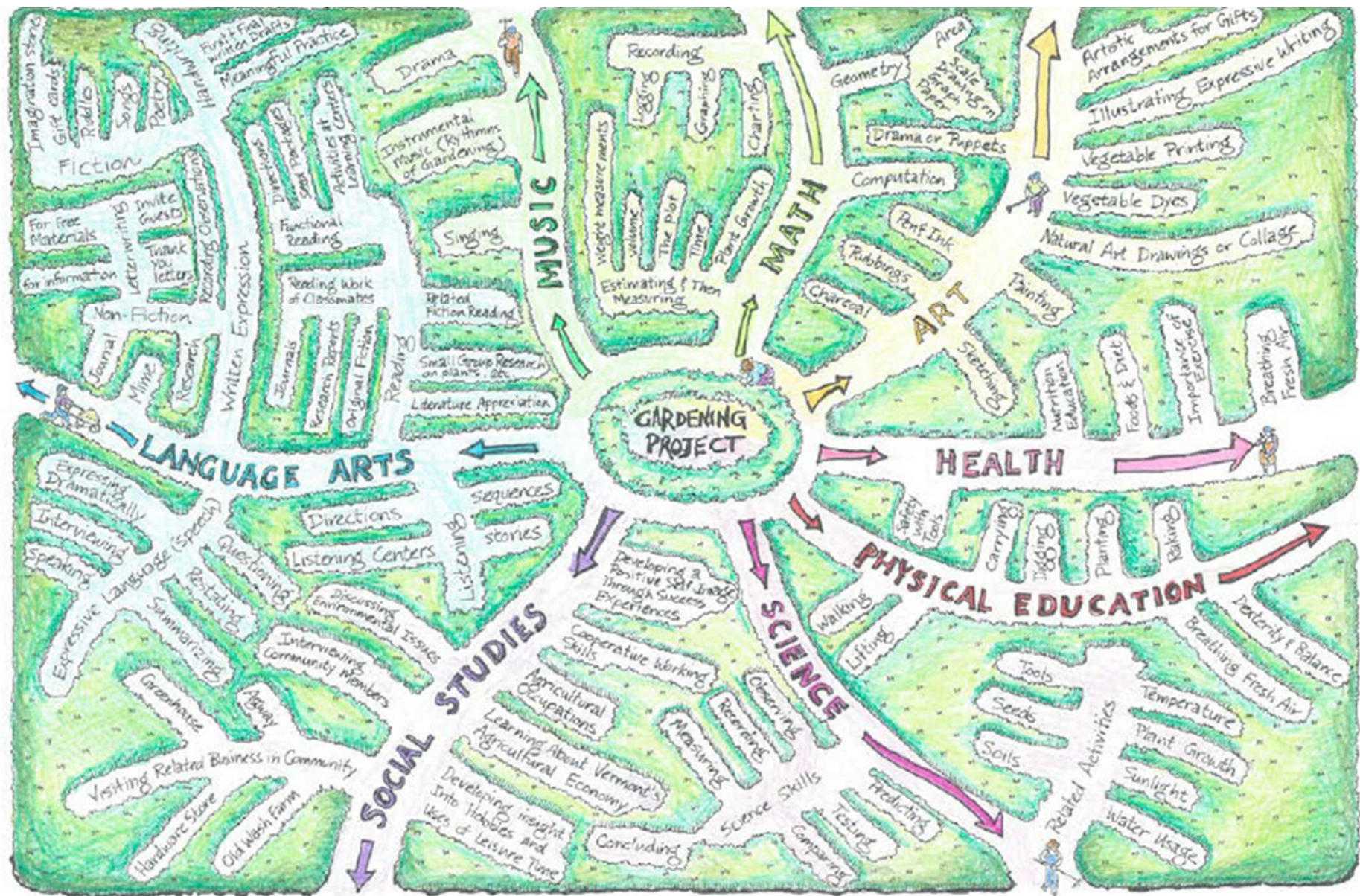






# TEACHING IN THE GARDEN





# Teaching in the Garden

- **Emphasize cooperative learning** in teams by creating rotating stations and garden “groups”
- **Use maintenance tasks** (mulching, weeding, pruning, turning compost) to fill time for students who finish lesson quickly
- **Buddy classes:** pairing older students with younger students or varied abilities to encourage mentoring
- **Living curriculum;** experiential learning and decision making



**CREATING A SCHOOL GARDEN:**  
**the ~~nuts and bolts~~ *seeds and weeds* of it.**



# Creating School Garden Program

## Steps for success

1. Form a Garden Committee
2. Determine your vision and goals
3. Seek administrative approval
4. Design the garden and choose a site.
5. Assess your needs and create a budget - How will you fund the project?
6. Source your materials.
7. Construction day.
8. Use the garden regularly and track your successes.
9. Create a summer maintenance plan.
10. Learn from others!

# Choosing school-friendly varieties

## Spring

- Peas
- Lettuce
- Spinach
- Kale
- Swiss chard
- Turnips
- Radishes
- Beets

## Fall

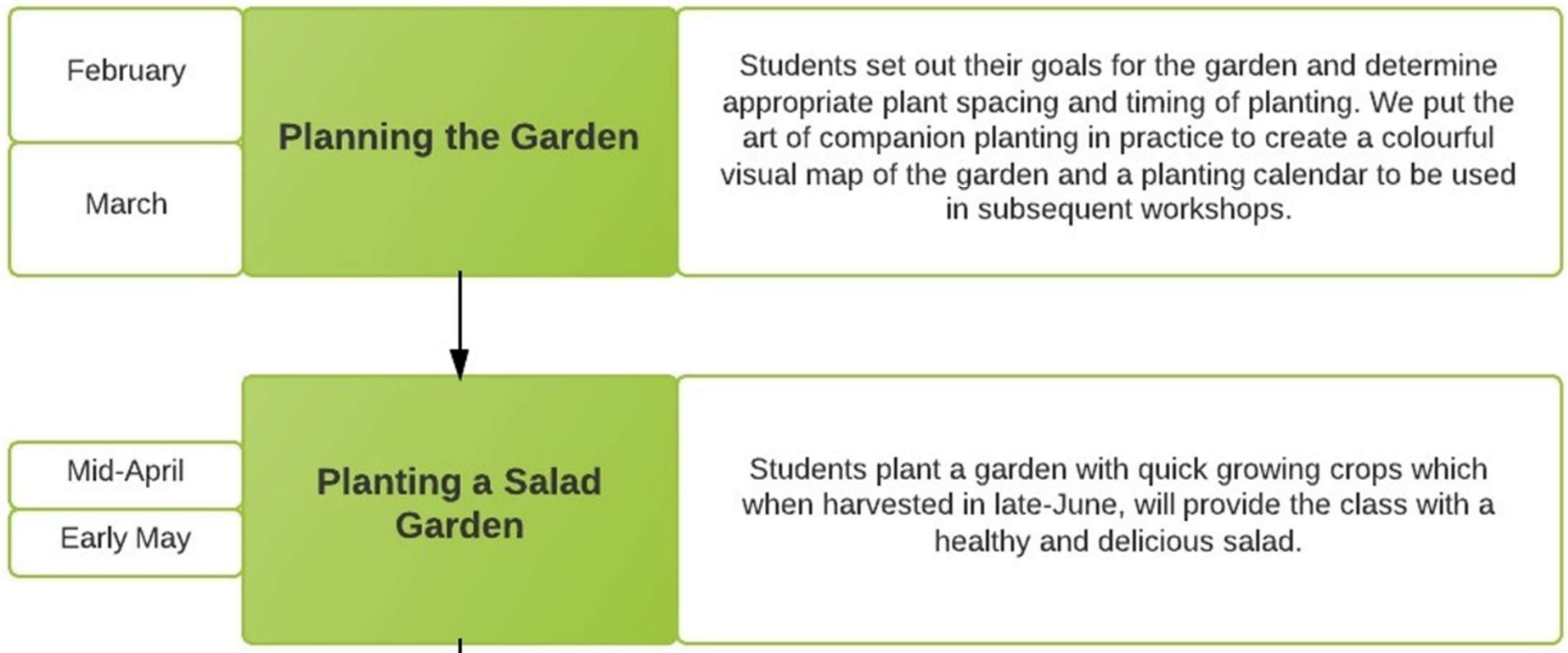
- Pumpkins
- Squash
- Beans
- Carrots
- Potatoes
- Nasturtiums
- Sunflowers



# How can GUO support your school garden program?

- **By providing on-going support and consultations**
- **By offering advice with regard to challenges, or suggestions for sustainable additions**
- **By delivering curriculum-connected workshops and providing a model for using the garden as a teaching tool.**
- **By providing tools for an effective maintenance plan for the summer.**

# GUO Spring Workshops



# GUO Spring Workshops



# GUO Fall Workshops

Contact GUO to determine timing based on your garden's vegetables.

## Seed Saving

Students discuss the importance of saving seeds from our gardens and learn skills that have been practiced by cultures around the world since the beginning of agriculture. Seeds saved from the garden can be used in next spring's planting.

September

## Soil Exploration

Students become stewards of the soil and learn just how precious fertile soil is. In this workshop we examine different types of soil and explore the role of composting.

October

# Thank you!



*“What can educators do to foster real intelligence?...We can attempt to teach the things that one might imagine the Earth would teach us: silence, humility, holiness, connectedness, courtesy, beauty, celebration, giving, restoration, obligation, and wildness.”*

—David W. Orr