

Pollinator-Friendly Garden – General Materials & Supply list for schools and learning centres

Plan – raised beds

- Raised beds are easiest to maintain – soil is contained, edges are clearly defined, mowers can easily mow around without damaging plants.
- Location: The bed(s) should be located where they are easily accessible to the school/centre so teachers/leaders can easily get the children out to them. Beds should also receive good sunlight (most of the suggested plants need full sun or sun/part shade). Be cognisant of where snow is piled in winter! (some otherwise excellent locations are unusable due to winter plowing patterns!). Also, be careful not to make things difficult for those who maintain the grounds – those who mow the grass areas, etc.
- Size: Gardeners should be able to reach all areas within the bed so 3'x6' is good for children. Often beds are made to be 4' x 8' (since many lumber supplies come in 8' lengths).
- Material: Mini ties, 1" x 4" or 1" x 6" (or wider) boards can be used, or 6 x6" posts. If posts are used, children can sit on the edges of the bed(s) when gardening or looking at the plants, etc. Ideally, cedar or other non-treated wood should be used (definitely so if food plants are to be grown). Concrete blocks, composite decking, and other materials can also be used to make the beds.
- Soil, compost and mulch will be needed to fill the bed. Compost isn't critical if good quality soil is used. Mulch helps keep weeds down and greatly eases the weeding process! Mulch also helps retain water.
 - Soil – Quantity: about 1 cubic yard to fill an 8 x 4 ft. bed with 10 in of soil
 - Mulch – about .5 cubic yard for an 8 x 4 ft. bed
- Water: A source of water will be needed, whether that be access to a tap and hose or a rain barrel.

Costs will depend on what's already in place, the size of the bed(s), materials used, etc. Be sure to include delivery costs for lumber (plus all needed hardware – screws, etc.) and for soil, compost, mulch.

Equipment – not all items may be needed, depending on project

- Truck for delivery of wood, soil and mulch (or arrange delivery)
- Saw – to cut mini ties to length
- Measuring tape – to plot out beds, measure wood, etc.
- Power screwdriver - to assemble raised beds
- Shovels – to remove sod and dig soil, to fill beds and spread soil and mulch
- Mulching forks – to apply mulch
- Watering cans - it's good to have a few for maintenance (by the children)

Volunteers

- To pick up lumber, soil, mulch, etc.
- To cut lumber and assemble raised beds – would any of the older children like to help with this?
- To remove sod (if necessary) and prepare space for the raised beds - would any of the older children like to help with this?
- To help out, as needed, on planting day

Planting day

- Trowels – for planting
- Spades
- Gardening gloves - for children
- Sunscreen
- Sun hats, etc.
- Water bottles (refillable!)

Plants:

- Aim for a variety of plants with a range of flowering times (from spring to fall) and a variety of flower shapes (flat, tubular, etc.) and colours in order to attract the greatest diversity of pollinators. Be sure to include at least one milkweed species if you want to attract monarch butterflies!
- An 8'x4' bed will probably hold about 20-24 plants and 1 shrub, depending on the species and sizes of the plants.

See 'Plant list for Pollinator-Friendly Gardens' and 'Learning Outside Information Sheet: How to Grow a Butterfly Garden' for suggestions.