



PBPS School Garden Magazine for Spring

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What we are currently growing in our garden: green beans, sweet corn, onions, basil, tomatoes, hot peppers, and sunflowers.



Interesting fact:

In India, basil was used to ward off evil and was considered sacred. The earliest known reference stretches back 5,000 years to India Vedic text. Basil, (*Ocimum basilicum*) is an annual herb of the mint family.



Gardening tips for spring:

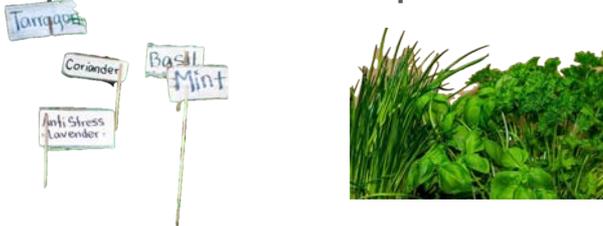
. Annuals: Garden in Florida can plant a variety which will do well in both the sun and shade.



. Bulbs: April is a great month to plant many bulbs, including Blue Dutch Iris ranunculus and lilies.



Herbs: Opt for herbs that prefer heat, such as basil, sage, and rosemary.



Spring gardening tips

. Pull those weeds



. Check your irrigation system



. Apply Mulch.



. Early Planting

. Fertilize perennials when you see 2 to 3" of new growth; Fertilize bulbs as they finish blooming;

. Set Up New Planters and Garden Beds.



Weed of the Month

Chickweed

Scientific name: *Stellaria media*

This weed spreads rapidly from new roots emerging from the nodes on the stems.

This hardy weed can quickly be a threat to any lawn within the right conditions.



Pathway Ideas

- dried-laid Pavers: good for heavy use
 - turf: Comfortable but high-maintenance
 - gravel: budget-friendly and functional
 - mortared paths: clean and Formal
 - stone and mulch
 - bottle bases
 - Bricks
 - DIY Glow Stepping Stones
- (if you frequently visit your garden at night)



Recipes from the garden:

Sautéed Corn with Pepper And Onion



fresh corn
peppers
onions
butter, bacon grease, or avocado oil

The straightforwardness of this recipe is also refreshing - melt butter or bacon grease (also works with avocado oil for a vegetarian option) and cook the onions for a few minutes, then the peppers, and finally the corn.

The Best Fresh Tomato Salsa



Stir tomatoes, onion, green bell pepper, cilantro, lime juice, jalapeño pepper, cumin, salt, and pepper together in a bowl until just combined.

Ingredients

3 cups chopped tomatoes

1 cup onion, diced

½ cup chopped green bell pepper

¼ cup minced fresh cilantro

2 tablespoons fresh lime juice

4 teaspoons chopped fresh jalapeño pepper (including seeds)

½ teaspoon ground cumin

½ teaspoon kosher salt, or to taste

½ teaspoon ground black pepper



Green Bean Casserole

2 cups of fresh green beans
1 can (10.5 oz) condensed
cream of mushroom soup
¼ cup milk
1 container (2.8 oz) crispy fried
onions

Heat oven to 350°F. In 1 1/2-quart
casserole or glass baking dish, mix
green beans, soup and milk.

Bake 20 to 25 minutes, topping with
onions during last 5 minutes of baking,
until bubbly.



Basil Pesto Recipe

½ cup toasted pine nuts
2 tablespoons fresh lemon
juice
1 small garlic clove
¼ teaspoon sea salt
freshly ground black pepper
2 cups basil leaves
¼ cup extra-virgin olive oil,
plus more for a smoother
pesto
¼ cup freshly grated
Parmesan cheese, optional

Combine all above
ingredients in a food
processor or blender till
smooth.
Voila! Pesto!

Garden Pests:

Some wildlife that we are not trying to welcome to the garden are squirrels, raccoons and rabbits and deer. they will eat the food that you grow . blood meal or wood ash may repel raccoons as well as other animals such as .blood meal is often used as fertilizer and can be found at any farm or store.



How to deter the pests:

We can use wood ash, blood meal around the edges of your beds. Fake owls and fences can help.

Also, you can hang shiny objects that spin and move with the wind. These will scare away these animals or at least make them think about entering your garden :)



Observing parts of the plant

This is one of those classic plant life cycle activities every kid should try. Grow a bean seed in wet paper towels up against the side of a glass jar. Students will be able to see the roots form, the sprout take off, and the seedling reach for the sky!

Using magnifying glasses and tweezers, students will dissect flowers or food plants to learn the different parts. Handy tip: You don't need separate plants for every student. Bring in one plant and give each student a different part.



Make a mini greenhouse

- Seeds
- Soil
- Small container (like an old spice jar or yoghurt container)
- Large, clear container that will fit over the smaller container (like a large glass jar or a litre pop bottle cut in half)

Fill the small container with soil and place seeds a couple of centimetres down, then moisten the soil. Next, place the larger container on top of the smaller container and put the mini greenhouse in a sunny spot. After a few days you should see the plants start to grow.

By covering the plant with a clear container, you've created a mini greenhouse that mimics warmer, humid springtime weather as condensation from evapotranspiration collects on the side of the jar.



soil health

Healthy soil is a vital part of having healthy plants. Soil is 45% mineral, 25% air, 25% water, and 5% organic matter, on average. Most of soils nutrients contains nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. To keep soil healthy you should add compost to increase the amount of air the soil gets. If the soil is unhealthy the plant will not be able to get the nutrients the plant needs to survive. It is important that the soil has water for plants to obtain the minerals and nutrients they need to survive.



Source Recycled Planters for Gardening

