

# Organic GARDENING



AT~



Canterbury  
SCHOOL



# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Tools



# Why Organic ?



## Sustainable Schools that “Fit”

▪ **Environmentally Sustainable:** Exemplifying the stewardship of the planet that will be required for its inhabitants to survive.

- No harmful chemicals
  - Healthier soil!
  - Healthier plants!
  - Healthier people!

*Reduce Carbon footprint*

# *What is healthy soil?*

- *A mix of broken down rocks, takes eons to form*
- *Decomposed plant and animal material*
- *Nutrients to supply plants growth needs*
- *Contains earthworms and mycorrhizae (fungus)*
- *pH of 7*



# WHAT DO PLANTS NEED?

## **Nutrients:**

*Nitrogen*

*Green growth*

*Phosphorous*

*Flowering*

*Potassium*

*Strong stems*

*Organic sources:*

- *Compost*
- *Chicken Manure*
- *Fish Emulsion*



WATER



*Next Step=Drip Irrigation*

*Watering roots, not leaves!*



# COMPOSTING



Composting is the decomposition of plant remains and other once-living materials to make an earthy, dark, crumbly substance that is excellent for adding to and enriching garden soil. It is the way to recycle your yard and kitchen wastes, and is a critical step in reducing the volume of garbage needlessly sent to landfills for disposal.



*What can we compost?*

# *The good, the bad, the ugly!*

## **Good**

- Kitchen waste, esp. coffee grounds, eggshells
- Grass/lawn clippings Hay, straw
- Woodchips, sawdust, wood ash

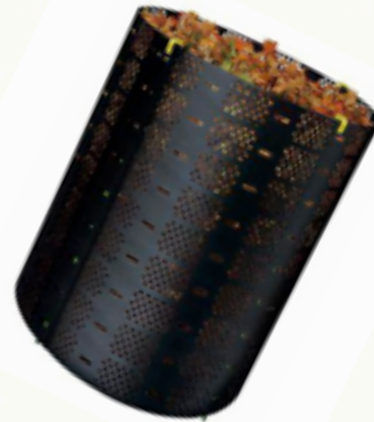
## **Bad**

- Diseased plants (pathogens may not breakdown)
- Meat, bones, fatty foods (attracts pests like rats)
- Chemically treated wood products (arsenic, creosote)
- Human or pet waste (pathogens need high heat)
- No weed seeds or crabgrass

# Types of composting bins



Wood



Plastic



# *Our first compost Bin!*



# ***WE GRADUATED TO THIS !***



*Wire mesh for aeration*

*Three tiered for varied*

*Levels of decomposition*



*Removable Wooden slats  
for easy turning.*

# *Taking care of business!*

*A Canterbury tradition: Scraps from school lunches,  
Coffee grounds + fruit peels from teachers.*



*Leaves and  
Grass clippings  
from the  
community.*



# *What can we grow?*

- *Fruits*
- *Vegetables*
- *Herbs*

❖ **When???**

❖ **Cool and**

❖ **Warm season**

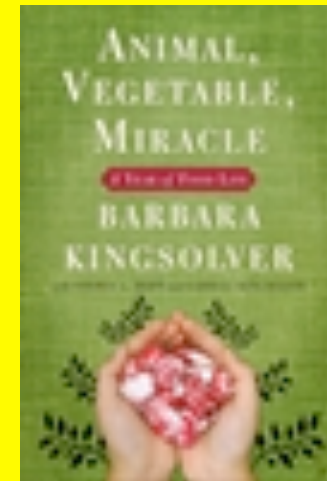
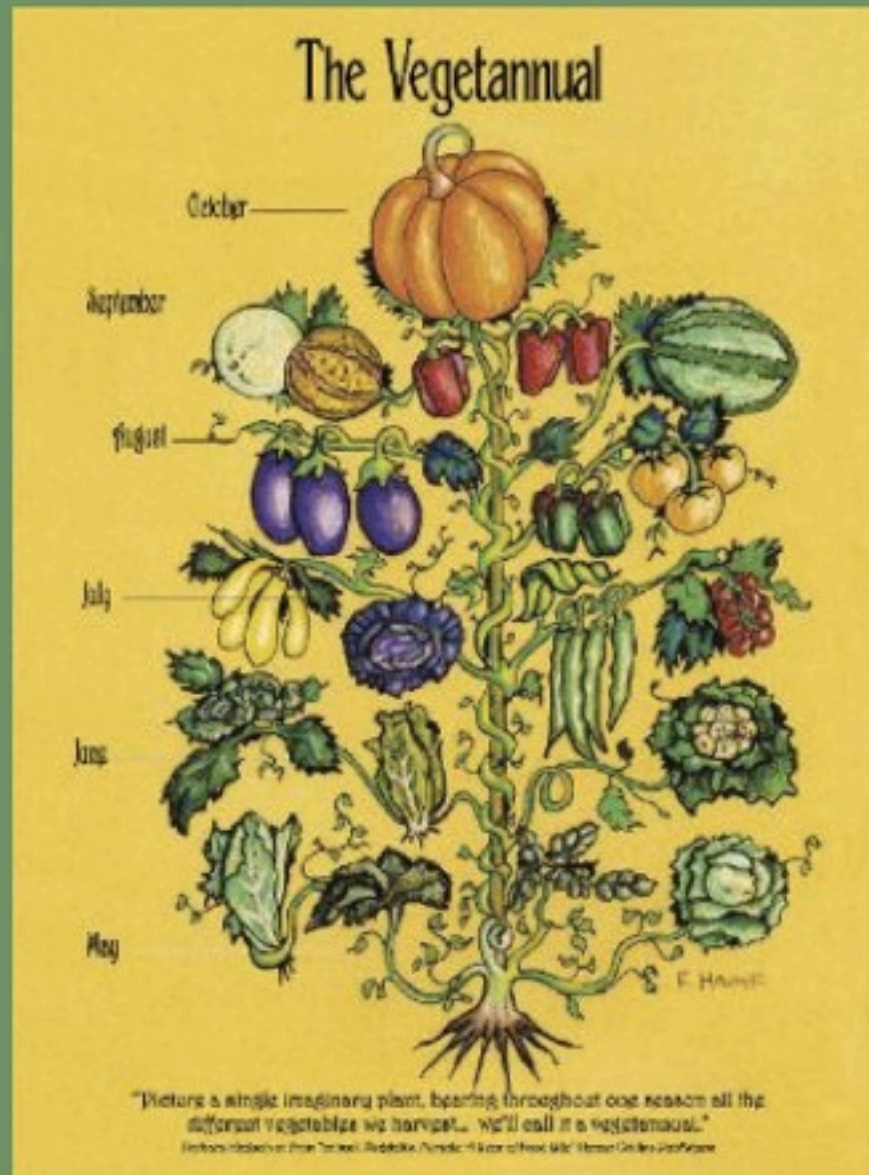
❖ ***HEIRLOOM SEEDS***

❖ ***Southern exposure seed exchange***

<http://www.southernexposure.com/index.html>



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"Take a minute to study this creation – an imaginary plant that bears over the course of one growing season a cornucopia of all the different vegetable products we can harvest. We'll call it a vegetannual ..."



A Sense of accomplishment and self esteem!



# Pest Control

- *Biocontrol*
- *Beneficial insects*
- *braconid wasp*



Immature ladybird beetle  
Praying Mantis





*Pests and problem solving!*



***For Bigger Pests,  
Havahart Traps + cats!***



*Bambi, soap, and chili pepper spray!*



# *Students "Weeding"*



# ***Students actually weeding!***



# Constructing a lasting garden

- ◆ Raised beds=high quality soil
- ◆ long lasting recycled composite lumber
- ◆ doesn't crack, swell, or fade 30yrs.



# Stone benches and bed borders



# ***Gardening and Service Learning***



***Edible  
Schoolyard***

***Greensboro  
Children's  
Museum***



# ***SHARING Gardening ideas***



# *AVALON TRACE REFUGEE COMMUNITY*



*Building community  
One bed at a time!*





**Gender groupings!**





**Middle school mentors lower school**

<http://urbanext.illinois.edu/firstgarden/>

