

The Peoples Garden in California



Captain Raymond School Garden. Susan Deogracias and her students. This picture is from 2012. Ms. Deogracias is now retired but still returns to the school to help with the garden.

What Constitutes a People's Garden?

A People's Garden Should:

Benefit the community

Gardens can benefit communities in many different ways such as:

- Creating spaces for leisure or recreation
- Providing a harvest to a local food bank
- Providing food or shelter for wildlife.
- Serving as a demonstration site to educate the public and raise awareness of issues related to USDA's mission such as natural resource conservation, nutrition, healthy eating, sustainable agriculture, forestry, etc.

Be a Collaborative Effort

The garden must be created and maintained by a partnership of individuals, groups, or organizations or other USDA Agencies.

Incorporate sustainable agricultural practices

The garden must include practices that nurture, protect or enhance natural resources such as but not limited to:

- Utilizing rain barrels for irrigation, or using water efficient irrigation systems
- Xeriscaping
- Composting, mulching, or use of cover crops
- Planting native species
- Encouraging beneficial insects
- Erosion control
- Stormwater management

Getting Involved

The Farm Service Agency is interested in partnering with other agencies, nonprofits or civic groups to establish gardens in support of the initiative.

There are many options for developing gardens. Some possibilities include:

- Traditional gardens with fruits, vegetables, herbs, etc.
- Crop or conservation practice demonstration gardens
- Organic gardens
- Native plantings
- Rain gardens or roof gardens
- Bioswales (landscaping to remove silt and pollutants)
- Tree plantings to encourage carbon sequestration
- Children's gardens
- Pollinator or butterfly gardens
- Other educational garden

National Website

Visit the National People's Garden Website at:

http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=PEOPLES_GARDEN

School gardens designated as People's Gardens

Garden Name	Town	County
Alexander Valley School Garden	Healdsburg	Sonoma
Appleby School Gardens	Blythe	Riverside
Captain Ray's Corral	Long Beach	Los Angeles
Clay Joint elementary School Garden	Kingsburg	Fresno
Helen Lehman Elementary School Garden	Santa Rosa	Sonoma
Independence High School Garden	Brentwood	Contra Costa
Margaret White Box Garden	Blythe	Riverside
Ms. Brackx's Class Garden	Escondido	San Diego
Prestwood School Garden	Sonoma	Sonoma County
Ruth Brown Gardens	Blythe	Riverside
The Science Garden Biella School	Santa Rosa	Sonoma County
Whitmore Wildcat Community Garden	Whitmore	Shasta County
Sonoma Charter School Garden	Sonoma	Sonoma County
Buckeye School for the Arts	Redding	Shasta
Westminster Elementary School	Venice	Los Angeles
Palm Desert Middle School	Palm Desert	Riverside
John L. Golden Elementary School	Etiwanda	San Bernardino
Anneliese School	Laguna Beach	Los Angeles
Glacier Point Middle School	Clovis	Fresno
Laureate School	San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo
Canfield Avenue School	Los Angeles	Los Angeles
River School	Napa	Napa County
Cherry Chase Elementary School	Sunnyvale	Santa Clara

Kohlrabi Slaw

Here is the “slaw” recipe we plan to make with children at our **Dig it, Grow it, Eat it** events this fall.

Kohlrabi is a member of the cabbage family (Brassicas). Cultivated long ago by the Romans, we know it by its German name “kohlrabi” meaning cabbage turnip. It’s best and sweetest when picked young, no more than two to three inches across.

Peel the outer tough skin of the kohlrabi and grate. Place in a bowl. Add grated apple. Toss the grated kohlrabi and apple with cider vinegar, chopped herbs (parsley and cilantro and chives) a splash of olive oil and salt and pepper to taste.

**Enjoy from Backyard to Belly, UC Marin Master Gardeners
Anne-Marie, UC Marin Master Gardeners, DGE volunteer**

2016 People’s Garden seed selections:

Ornamental corn, Wilda’s Pride-110 days. Beautiful ornamental corn with the best range of colors in one variety. Tall sturdy plants produce 8 to 11 inch ears. Some ears are multi-colored while others are solid maroon, yellow or black red. Perfect for decorating classrooms in the fall and then popping the corn to eat while watching a movie in the winter.

Sweet Corn, Bodacious RM (SE) 75 days. Exceptionally tender, sweet yellow kernels. Big 8” ears on 7 ft. plants. Widely adaptable with consistent production, has improved resistance to common rust.

Bush Beans, Baccicia- 52 days. This tender Italian heirloom snap bean has a distinct and delicious flavor. 6.5” semi-flat pods on a 30 inch bush. Baccicia (pronounced bah-chee-cha) is a unique local favorite.

Pole Beans, Kentucky wonder- 65 days, heirloom variety with flat oval pods up to 8.5” long, tender, slightly stringy with very good quality and flavor. 5 to 7 ft. vine. Brown seeded.

Poinsett 76. 65 days, a widely adapted slicing cucumber with a medium vine, dark green fruit with white spine, monoecious flowering and disease tolerance.

Gourds, small warted professional mix-90 to 100 days. Combines a blend of warted gourds with small round, pear, striped, spoon, egg, and flat shapes. Very warted and very colorful.

Herb, Basil, Italian Large leaf-85 to 90 days, up to 2 feet tall, bright green, aromatic leaves used as seasoning, especially good as pesto. Clip leaves when blooming begins.

Herb, Chives, common-80 days, a hardy perennial in the onion family that grows in clumps of thin, delicately onion flavored leaves up to 10” long. Clip leaves for flavoring soups and salads. Lavender flowers are ornamental in the garden.

Loose Leaf Lettuce Mix, special blend of 18 lettuce, endives, and chicories that is a complete salad mix. Has a wide variety of colors, textures and flavors to make a market or home favorite. Start harvesting in 4 to 6 weeks.

Peppers- Anaheim Sonora-76 Days, 8" x 1.5" mildly pungent fruits are dark green, maturing to red. Very high yields on medium sized plants.

Radish, Sparkler white tipped-25 days, round to globe shaped, deep scarlet skin on top with pure white lower tip. Has crisp white flesh that never becomes hollow and holds its crispness long after pulling. Medium tall tops.

Eggplant, Long purple (Chinese): 75 days, unusual long, thin fruit, 8 -10" long x 1.5 -2.5 " diameter, purple skin, very tender white flesh, good flavor, robust heavy yielding plant, tolerant to diseases.

Pumpkin, Long Island Cheese—110 days, heirloom variety resembling a wheel of cheese being medium-large, 8-10" w by 4-5"H, lightly ribbed and flattened in shape. Has a smooth tan skin and weight averages 6 to 10 lbs. Stores quite well. Average yield 2 fruits per plant.

Pumpkin, Small Sugar Pie (New England)-100 days, smooth, deep orange, 8 to 9" slightly flattened fruits weigh 5 to 6 pounds, sweet fine flesh.

Squash (winter), Vegetable spaghetti-110 days, an unusual variety that produces spaghetti-like strands of flesh that can be removed easily after boiling. 1.5lb tan colored 10" x 8" oval fruit. Spreading vine.

Squash (winter), Waltham Butternut-85 to 90 days, a superior O.P. butternut type, with excellent quality and flavor. Light tan, smooth, 2 to 3 lb. Fruits are 8 to 10 "long, 4.5" diameter, with a 5.5" bulbous blossom end. Perfect to make soup in the winter from your summer harvest.

Squash (summer), Black Beauty (dark green Zucchini)- 55 to 60 days, very dark green skin, 6 to 8 " , with very good texture and flavor. Medium large bush with large, dark green, slightly notched leaves.

Squash (summer), Early Yellow Crookneck-55 days, 5 to 7" light yellow fruit are bulbous at blossom end with a slender curved neck, relatively smooth at picking stage. Medium large bush.

Squash, Early white bush Scallop- 60 days, a flattened scallop type with creamy white color when mature. Bush type plant.

Planting Directions for the seeds distributed for the People's Garden are listed below. The planting season was provided for the Stockton area and will vary with your location.

Name/Variety	Planting Season	Inches Between Rows	Inches apart in a row after thinning	Depth (inches)	Days to Germination	Days to Harvest
Beans , bush	April-July	18-30	2-3	1.5	6-10	45-65
Beans , pole	April -July	36-48	4-6	1.5	6-10	60-70
Beets	March-September	12-18	2	½	7-12	55-65
Broccoli	Seed Jun-July Transplants: Jul- Sept.	24-30	14-18	¼	6-9	60-80T
Brussels sprouts	Seeds: June-July Transplants: Jul- Sept	24-30	12-18	¼	6-9	80-90T
Chard (Swiss)	Feb-May & August – October	18-24	4-8	½ - 1	7-12	55-65
Corn (Sweet)	March-July	30-36	8-14	1 ½	5-12	60-90
Cucumber	March- July	48-72	12	½ - 3/4	7 - 10	55 - 65
Kale	Jan-Mar & July- Sept.	18-24	8-12	½	3-10	55-80
Kohlrabi	Jan-Mar & July- Sept.	18-24	3-4	¼	3-10	60-70
Leek	Mar-May & Aug- Sept.	12-18	2-4	½-1	10-14	130-150
Lettuce (leaf)	Feb-May & Aug- Oct.	12-18	4-6	¼	5-10	45-60
Lettuce (head) -Oct.	Dec-Feb. &	18-24	12-14	¼	5-10	55-80
Onion	July- Aug	12-24	3-4	½	7-12	140-210
Peas	Feb- Mar & Aug-Oct	18-30	2-3	1	7-10	65-85
Pumpkins	May-July	70-120	30	1	7-12	90-120
Radish	Feb-May & August - October	6-12	1-2	½	3-6	20-50
Spinach	March- May & Sept- Nov	12-14	2-4	¾	7-12	40-60
Squash, Summer	March-July	36-60	16-24	1	7-10	50-60
Squash, Winter	March-July	72-120	24-48	1	7-10	70-120
Turnip	Aug, --Oct. & Feb. --Apr	15-18	1-3	¼	5-10	45-60