

August 2018

FRESH from the Garden

A message from Amy & Doug

Welcome back!

We were thrilled to host our first ever School Garden Summer Institute August 15 - 16. Though most participants were local, we had folks from as far east as Johnston County and as far west as Haywood County. Topics ranged from irrigation and composting to technology and teaching in the garden, as well as a fantastic tour of Barbee Farms. Two of our presenters were local teachers who have excelled in using their school gardens. We are already in the process of planning for next year!

Check out this quick video from this year's SGSII!



Strawberries Available

Would you like to grow strawberries? It's a long-term commitment, with planting in September and harvest in April-May, but there are learning opportunities all along the way, not to mention the harvest reward of ripe, juicy berries. Check out the [Strawberries in Schools](#) curriculum.



We will have a limited supply of free strawberry plants to share with schools in Rowan, Cabarrus, and Iredell Counties. If you are interested, email [Doug](#) to coordinate.



In the Garden Now



Plant

You can plant as early as the first week of school, but make sure you've got a plan for garden teaching objectives and harvest goals. For example, if you want to have broccoli and radishes ready to harvest at the same time, planting dates must be planned accordingly. (Hint: Radishes are a fast growing crop. You might reduce your broccoli crop time by using transplants rather than starting from seed.)

Harvest

Some schools hosted summer garden clubs. They may be harvesting corn, watermelons, or tomatoes.

Some planted sweet potatoes before the end of school and those have been growing all summer. They can be harvested anytime, now until the first frost. Sizes may vary widely, from fist-size to football-size.

Maintenance

It's time to "harvest" cover crops, but do NOT remove them from the garden. If you planted a cover crop, cut or stomp it down and use a shovel to turn the vegetation into the bed so that it can decompose, enriching your soil with renewed nutrients and organic matter. Once turned over, let it sit for 2-3 weeks and then you're ready to plant.

[Here's a quick video.](#)



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Questions? Contact us!

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