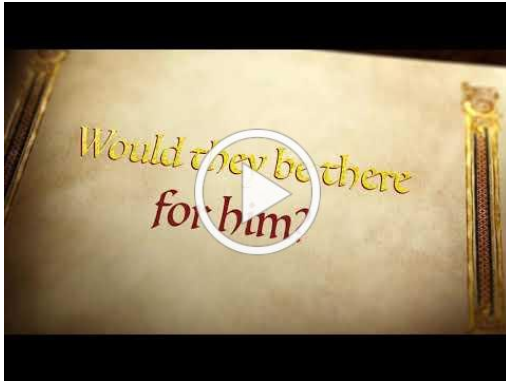


FRESH from the Garden

Teacher Feature



You've probably heard of fundraising motivators that result in the principal being taped to the wall or kissing a pig. The idea is, that once the goal is met, the "loser" is the one facing an undesirable consequence. Karen von Klahr, Lead Teacher and Garden Team member at Winecoff Elementary School in Concord, NC, felt like the motivation needed a more positive spin. She crafted a [video](#) detailing how the assistant principal, Ritchie Wells, had always wanted to be a scarecrow. Students could help make his wish come true if they reached their fundraising goal of \$500 for school garden sustainability.



During a parent engagement night, they placed a donation box in the garden, offered face painting and concessions for \$1, and showed off their garden projects. The students met their goal and Mr. Wells fulfilled his dream of becoming a scarecrow, allowing all the classes to enjoy his moment in the sun.

They may have a similar fundraising effort in the spring, she says. Perhaps the principal has a secret desire to be a butterfly...time will tell.



In the Garden Now



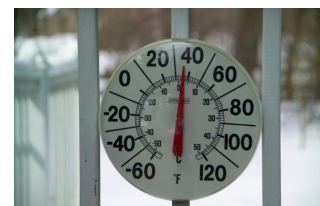
Plant

Planting outdoors in the garden is over for this year. If you are itching to continue planting, you can consider growing some perennial herbs or perennial pollinators from seed indoors, under a light bank. Rosemary and



Harvest

Harvesting cool season vegetables should be in full swing at this time. Lettuce, spinach, arugula, kale and other leafy greens are loving these cold nights and cooler days and will continue producing all month long as



Maintenance

Cover your beds with season extenders on nights that are predicted to be below 35°F. Secure the edges so the wind does not lift or tear the row cover. It will not hurt your plants to leave the bed

parsley are examples of herbs that take longer than annual transplants to grow into plants that are ready to be moved outdoors in the spring. Baptisia, bee balm and butterfly weed are examples of pollinators that you may like to try indoors as well. Remember to keep the lights approximately 2 inches above the top of your plants to help produce a stocky, healthy plant. You can use an inexpensive timer to keep your lightbank on 14-16 hours daily, providing a period of darkness that best mimics natural conditions.

you harvest the leaves regularly. Be careful to only harvest outer leaves of leaf lettuce, leaving a "bunch" of leaves in the middle of the plant for continuous production of new leaves. When harvesting "one and done" crops, like cabbage and kohlrabi, remove the remainder of the plant from the bed, and place any remnants in the compost bin. Remember, kids are more willing to taste something that they've grown. If possible, offer them the opportunity to try their harvested vegetables prepared a variety of ways.

covered all day, but uncovering them when the temperature is above 35°F is preferable to allow maximum sunlight and ease of watering. In a pinch, a sheet will protect plants from frost, but never use plastic or a tarp. A row cover used at night should be sufficient to prevent damage from deer. Insect pests should be at a minimum at this point in the year. Removing the few pests you do find by hand should be an adequate means of control. Continue to monitor irrigation needs of any late fall or overwintering crops.



Resource Spotlight

Wouldn't be fun to take a tour across the country to see the creative, innovative, smart things that teachers are doing in school gardens? You can! It's just a click away.

We love to see ideas being shared, not just in telling, but showing off tips and tricks with short videos.

As the harvest season winds down, find time to check out [LifeLab's Video Lab](#), a great repository of ideas and inspiration for your own school gardens.



Find more School Garden Resources on our website:

[Lesson Plans](#)

[Professional Development](#)

[Recipes](#)

[Newsletter Archive](#)

Questions? Contact us!

Amy Bowman • asbowman@ncsu.edu

Doug Vernon • dpvernon@ncsu.edu

Subscribe to FRESH from the Garden!

[View FRESH from the Garden in a web browser](#)