

March 2017

MUCH TO DO ABOUT GARDENING WITH YOUTH

Dig, Plant and Grow these youth gardening resources – books, internet websites, models for youth gardens, crafts and grants. OH MY!

Children are born with curiosity, a sense of wonder and a hunger to learn. For us adults, children often become the garden teachers and show us how to learn through the senses.

- ❖ Smell the basil and thyme
- ❖ Touch the smooth tomato or prickly squash leaf. See the monarch butterflies.
- ❖ Taste the juicy tomato and green pepper
- ❖ Hear the bees buzz around lavender
- ❖ Feel the silky corn silk or lily pollen on their cheek.

Through children's magic in gardens with us, we pause and become less focused on weeds, bugs, harvests and perfection. They teach us the splendor of small things in our often, frantic lives.

Because of the children, be mindful of not using pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, snail or slug bait. Rachel Carson, scientist and author, described best how adults learn to see the world from a child's lens, "If I had influence with the good fairy who is supposed to preside over the christening of all children, I should ask that her gift to each child in the world be a sense of wonder so indestructible that it would last throughout life....If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder without any such gift from the fairies, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering....the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in." Carson's book, "Silent Spring," was the catalyst for the environmental movement.

Gardening Books:

- ❖ The Book of Gardening Projects for Kids: 101 Ways to Get Kids Outside, Dirty, and Having Fun, by Whitney Cohen. 2012.
- ❖ The Family Kitchen Garden, by Karen Liebreich, 2009.

Internet Resources:

- ❖ KidsGardening.org contains resources on Internet and Facebook for grants, garden design, lesson plans, etc.
- ❖ www.gardensandcrafts.com offers garden layouts, free journal pages and more.
- ❖ Blueboardwalk.com also offers free journal pages to print off.
- ❖ Allow the youth (who are often more computer savvy than this grandma) to search for resources.
- ❖ Katie'sKrops.com offers growers grants for youth ages 9-16
- ❖ Since bees are in jeopardy everywhere, check the National Pollinator Network.
- ❖ Searches on the internet related to Grants: urban garden grants, grants for schools 20017, community garden grants 2017, greenhouse grants for schools 2017.
- ❖ Check out these companies for grants: Schultz Fertilizer, Scotts, Bayer, Tree Top, Miracle Gro, Northrop King, Mantis (tillers), Jumba Juice, Ferry Morse Seeds, Burpee Seeds, Park Seeds, Harris Seeds, and Seeds of Change. The youth will learn about all the gardening-related companies, their products and if they are community partners by donations of seeds, plants, equipment, supplies and funds for youth gardening.

Until next thyme, Sheila Hamilton-Taylor, Member of TGOA Youth Gardening Committee.

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