

THE EDIBLE
SCHOOLYARD
PROJECT

PLANTING YOUR OWN GARDEN

Summary: Building a planter box is a simple way to start gardening. This lesson will help students build their own planter box using a few simple items they can get at any hardware or garden store, or by upcycling things they have already.

Time: 60-90 minutes

Materials:

See the [Create Your Own: Planter Box](#) visual (attached below) to determine what materials you will use.

Teacher Notes:

- This lesson was developed for Edible Schoolyard Project's [Understanding Organic](#) curriculum and is part of the extension inquiries.



PLANTING YOUR OWN GARDEN

READ: Imagine that building a planter box is like cooking a flexible recipe—the supplies and ingredients you start with are flexible, and so is the path to your final product. Whether you use a pot, a bag, or an old dresser drawer, they’ll all hold soil.

Like any recipe, there are a few key steps for success. First, **make sure there are holes in the bottom of your container** so that the soil can drain. Soil that is too wet can hurt some plant roots. You’ll also want to figure out a **watering system**. This can be as simple as watering by hand every few days, or you can take the time to set up a water-efficient irrigation system or olla system that will save you time later on.

DO: Complete the [Create Your Own: Planter Box](#) process (attached below) by following each step and making your own choices. If you want to learn more about some of the options presented, check out the link in the student notes below.

RECORD: Write down your “recipe” by coloring in the items you choose (or drawing in something you used instead of the options on the sheet).

REFLECT: Answer the following questions:

- Are you using any organic practices to grow plants in your planter?
- Do you consider your planter box organic? Why or why not?

ENJOY: Place your planter in a sunny spot and watch your plants flourish and grow!

REFLECT ON CONNECTIONS: Consider the ways you might connect to and join the work of planting gardens in your community. Use your [Circles of Connections](#) worksheet to answer the following questions:

- Where do you observe the practice of gardening in your community?
- Is gardening important in your life? Do you think that gardening is important in your community? Explain your answers.
- If you wanted to increase the role of gardening in your community, how would you do it? What are some actions you could take?

Student Notes: To learn about the organic nutrients that you might want to apply to your plants see the “READ” section of the [Create Your Own: Planter Box](#) lesson.

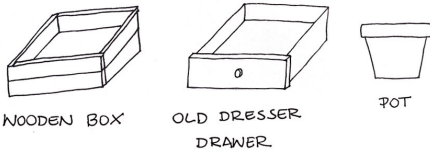


CREATE YOUR OWN: PLANTER BOX

[VISUAL]

Create your own: Planter Box

① CHOOSE A CONTAINER

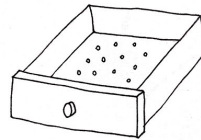


WOODEN BOX

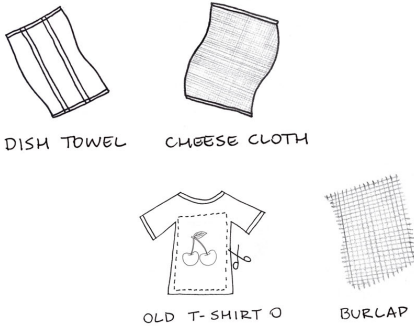
OLD DRESSER DRAWER

POT

② DRILL OR CUT HOLES IN THE BOTTOM FOR DRAINAGE



③ LINE IT WITH CLOTH SO THAT SOIL DOESN'T SPILL OUT



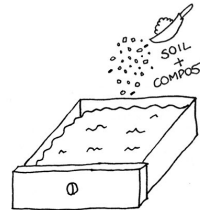
DISH TOWEL

CHEESE CLOTH

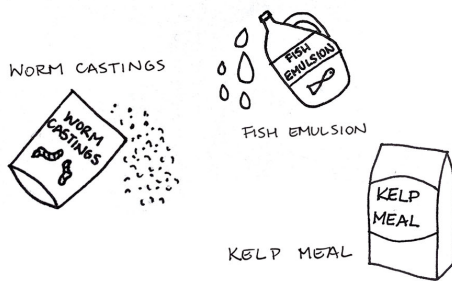
OLD T-SHIRT

BURLAP

④ FILL WITH POTTING SOIL MIXED WITH COMPOST



⑤ ADD SOME ORGANIC NUTRIENTS



WORM CASTINGS

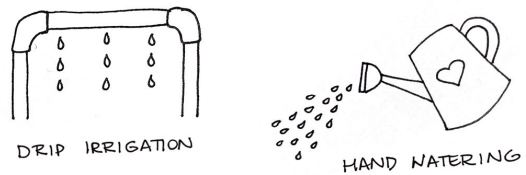


FISH EMULSION

KELP MEAL



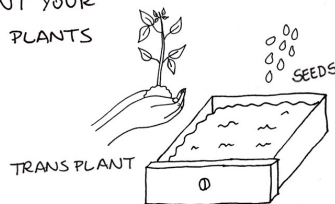
⑥ CHOOSE A WATERING SYSTEM



DRIP IRRIGATION

HAND WATERING

⑦ DIRECT SEED OR TRANSPLANT YOUR FAVORITE PLANTS



TRANSPLANT

SEEDS

⑧ KEEP WATERING AND KEEP GROWING!

