

GARDENER-IN- RESIDENCE PROGRAM

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Overview

Offered to Edmonton Public Schools, the *Gardener-in-Residence (GiR) Program* is an exciting new program that enhances student education through experiential and relationship-based connection to plants and nature with the goal to give students a deepened understanding of the living world, Earth and natural systems.

The GiR program offers weekly lessons by grade that :

- are developed to link to the AB curriculum;
- align with *EcoSchools Canada* certification;
- incorporate First Nations, Inuit, and Metis Traditional Ecological Knowledge;
- can help schools become eligible for Bee School status through Bee City Canada; and
- can create or maintain your indoor or outdoor school garden(s).

Research shows that the benefits of learning in natural outdoor settings include: increased student engagement, academic improvement, development of social and collaborative skills, and improved self-concept factors. Find out more about the program themes below.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

THEMES COVERED

- Plant Life Cycles + Functions
- Gardening + Nutrition
- Growing as Treaty People
- Native Plants + Pollinators
- Climate Change Solutions
- Connection to Land + Plants
- Soil Science + Vermicomposting

MEET NICOLA

- Social Entrepreneur
- Program Facilitator
- Urban Grower
- Bachelor's of Social Work
- Over 15 years working with Children + Youth



Connecting People to Plants

As your school's GiR, Nicola will work collaboratively with teachers and students to provide meaningful and engaging learning opportunities while acting as a liaison between your school's current (or potential) school garden/green space and the classroom. The GiR Program is a blend of outdoor and indoor lessons tailored to each grade level.



photo: prairie aster featured in a rain garden, YEG

LOGISTICS

Each year, schools may apply for the GiR Program:

Fall Semester Option - mid September to mid December

Spring Semester Option - early April to end of June

One Month Residency Option - as available

LET'S CONNECT, LET'S GROW!

YEARLY BUDGET

GOODWORM FACILITATOR FEES	3,000
EACH GRADE GETS ONE LESSON PER WEEK FOR 3 MONTHS	
RED WIGGLER WORMS	170
FOR CLASSROOM VERMICOMPOST BINS	
PLANTS + SOIL	250
FOR HANDS-ON LESSONS	
TOTAL PROGRAM COST FOR THE YEAR:	\$3,420

**ADDITIONAL COSTS IF YOU ARE IMPLEMENTING A SCHOOL GARDEN
APPLY FOR YOUR SCHOOL'S ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE GRANT.**

As much as possible, we will **REDUCE.REUSE.RECYCLE** to keep supplies cost low and align with environmental stewardship values.

**PLEASE REACH OUT IF YOU
HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS AT
GOODWORMGARDENS@GMAIL.COM**

OTHER COSTS

TAKE YOUR SCHOOL'S GARDEN PROGRAM TO THE NEXT LEVEL!

OPTIONAL COSTS:

INDOOR GROW LIGHT STAND (EACH) FOR CLASSROOM WITH NO SOUTH FACING WINDOW	\$85
BEAN SCREEN SPROUTING LIDS FOR PLANT FUNCTIONS AND NUTRITION MODULES	\$30
FLAT OF MASON JARS (12 PACK) FOR SOIL SCIENCE MODULE	\$15
NPK SOIL KIT FOR A FUN SOIL EXPERIMENT	\$30
FNMI ELDER/KNOWLEDGE KEEPER HONORARIUM TO INVITE AN INDIGENOUS ELDER/KNOWLEDGE KEEPER	\$500

The above costs are not required for the program to be successful. Material donations and teacher's science allocation funds can also help supplement costs.

GOODWORM: *CONNECTING PEOPLE TO PLANTS*