

plant grow eat share
Little GreenThumbs



Ready to grow?

Hear 
what other teachers
have to say

"I love the excitement and the sense of responsibility that the garden brings out in my students."

"I will continue doing Little Green Thumbs as long as I am teaching!"

We carefully select our schools based on geographical location, eagerness to participate, commitment to meeting the program objectives and willingness to provide feedback to help improve the program. We're always on the lookout for new schools to share in the Little Green Thumbs experience!

Applications to join the Little Green Thumbs program are accepted each spring. The application takes approximately 15 minutes to complete and is available at LittleGreenThumbs.org or by contacting your host organization below. Every year, approximately ten new gardens are given to teachers in each area.

Feel free to visit our website:
www.LittleGreenThumbs.org.



In partnership with: **Agrium**

A garden of possibilities for your classroom

vision

A Garden In Every School
A School In Every Garden

mission

To engage, empower and support students with hands-on, cross-curricular, educational experiences by growing gardens in their own learning environments.

charter

Plant, Grow, Eat, Share
Coming Alive in a
Garden of Possibilities!



Little Green Thumbs

Little Green Thumbs is an indoor gardening program for elementary and high school students. It gives you and your students an opportunity to become food producers right in your own classroom. The gardens can be planted each October then harvested in May and June.

Little Green Thumbs is a powerful educational program that teaches young people to value their health, environment and community through active participation in classroom gardens. As students actively co-operate to care for their garden, they learn about nutrition, environmental stewardship, sustainable food systems and community interdependence.



Little Green Thumbs in your classroom

Little Green Thumbs gardens are growing across Canada and the United States in classrooms of all shapes and sizes. Our indoor gardens require 24 square feet of classroom space (a 6' x 4' space is suggested). The self-watering containers and indoor gardening light are permanently set-up on the floor or a table in your classroom. Little Green Thumbs provides all of the materials you need to get started.

The Little Green Thumbs program has been designed with teachers in mind. We have taken the time to build a program that will help you achieve your learning objectives, not take time away from them. Many Little Green Thumbs teachers use the garden to advance cross-curriculum learning objectives, such as math, language arts, science and health. They also use the simple, weekly maintenance tasks as an opportunity to build a sense of responsibility and accomplishment in their students. Our kit comes complete with self-watering containers and a timer for the indoor light so you can be confident every time you walk out the door – evenings, weekends and holidays – that your garden will be safe and healthy until your return.



Interested in the Little Green Thumbs program?

For more than five years, we have been training teachers to be successful with the Little Green Thumbs program. Here's how we'll help you get started:

WORKSHOPS: You'll receive a teacher-training workshop, designed to help new teachers get started on the program, delivered hands-on by an authorized Little Green Thumbs Coordinator in your area.

SUPPORT: You'll receive year-round program support and classroom visits.

RESOURCES: You'll receive a *Teacher's Resource Binder*, including a growing information manual, a vermi-composting manual, activities and lesson plans.

VIDEOS: You'll receive step-by-step how-to videos to help you set up the garden in your classroom.

GARDEN-IN-A-BOX: The class will receive a complete indoor garden kit and grow light. Simply unpack, assemble, and you're ready to grow!

STUDENT JOURNALS: Each student will receive a journal to keep track of the garden's progress.

LGT COMMUNITY: You'll have access to the Little Green Thumbs community of teachers to share ideas on how to incorporate the program into cross-curriculum teaching, how to engage the larger community and how to maximize the learning potential for your students.



Becoming a Little Green Thumb

The Little Green Thumbs program is an investment for us and for our teachers. We invest in you by providing top quality equipment, training, resources and support to ensure you and your students have an amazing Little Green Thumbs experience. In return, we ask our Little Green Thumbs teachers to help us achieve our vision – *A Garden in Every School - A School in Every Garden* – by committing to the program in the following ways:

- **PARTICIPATING** in the Little Green Thumbs teacher-training workshop
- **ENCOURAGING** your students to share their new knowledge
- **PASSING ON** extra seeds, produce and gardening equipment
- **ORGANIZING** an annual celebration event
- **PARTICIPATING** in annual Little Green Thumbs evaluations to help improve the program
- **COMMUNICATING** with your Little Green Thumbs Coordinator about the program at your garden site
- **TAKING THE GARDEN MATERIALS** with you (in the event that you move locations) or passing on the gift of the garden to another person if you will no longer be involved in the program (Little Green Thumbs can help you find a new home for your garden)

The support of your school's administration and maintenance professionals is very important. The grow light in the garden kit adds approximately \$150 per year to the school's electricity bill. It's a good idea to speak to the administration and maintenance staff at your school before applying to become a Little Green Thumb. If they require further information about the program, contact us through our website. We're here to help!