

BES School Garden Regular Tasks

WATERING

- **RAISED BEDS:** Water daily or as needed. Generally the beds need about an inch of water per week or 1/4 inch of water every other day. During very dry times they need 1/4 inch a day. To achieve 1/4 inch, water each bed for about 15 minutes with the garden hose or sprinkler, or for about an hour using a soaker hose or drip tape.

WEEKLY GARDEN TASKS

- **MOW and CLIP** around the perimeter of the beds to protect plants from the mower and to keep a neat overall appearance.
- **PRUNE** tomatoes and pinch suckers encouraging growth from the central leader. Add clips to tomato plants as needed. *See tip in School Garden Guidebook: How To Prune Tomatoes.*
- **PRUNE and PINCH** herbs to encourage growth. *See tip in School Garden Guide: Pruning and Deadheading Herbs.*
- **CUT** flower bouquets to stimulate continuous blooms (give these away).
- **DEADHEAD** spent flower blossoms and remove all seed heads. *See tip in School Garden Guidebook: Deadheading Flowers and Cutting Back Plants*
- **ENCOURAGE** vines to climb where they are supposed to.
 - Pole beans to climb up corn in Three Sister's Garden.
 - Morning glory to grow up the sunflowers in the Rainbow Pollinator bed.
 - Pumpkin and winter squash vines to allow for aeration and to spread evenly back through the corn.
- **SCOUT** for insects and potential diseases. Squish bugs and eggs. Communicate to the garden team about what you find. *See tip in School Garden Guidebook: Bugs To Watch Out For and individual pest tips.*
- **CULTIVATE** (scrape) the top of the soil in every garden to knock down small weeds and discourage new weed germination. Pull large weeds as discard appropriately. *See tip in School Garden Guidebook: Common Garden Weeds.*

OCCASSIONAL GARDEN TASKS

- **THIN** carrots and/or radishes. *See tip in School Garden Guidebook: How to Thin Carrots.*
- **REMOVE** any vegetable plants that have bolted (such as lettuce gone to flower or seed) and **REPLANT** with new seeds or transplants. *If it is before mid August you can seed lettuce, carrots, or greens like chard, kale, spinach, arugula, or mustard.*

HARVEST

Most harvesting is done in autumn by returning students. Summer crops are harvested as they are ready as long as it has been coordinated with the summer garden maintenance leader(s).

- **CHECK** for mature crops and coordinate with team to harvest, prep, and store or give away as appropriate.
- **RECORD** the harvest on the Harvest Tracker worksheet in your School Garden Guidebook.