Welcome to our Salsa Garden
2009 Florida School Garden Competition
ENTRY FORM

School Gene Witt Elementary

Teacher(s) & Grade(s) involved in garden program
Mrs. Haney Varying Exceptionalities Teacher Mrs. Semrinec Paraprofessional
3rd., 4th., & 5th. grade students

Contact Person Mrs. Haney

Time contact person can be reached 7:45 a.m. -8:30 a.m. or 3:15 p.m. -3:30 p.m.

Phone (941) 741-3628 Fax (941) 741-3630

Address (please include city and zip code) 200 Rye Road East
Bradenton, Florida 34212

Email address haneyr@fc.manatee.k12.fl.us

CATEGORY (Please mark only one)

xx SINGLE CLASS GARDEN (Garden used by one class only) We are a single Class
Number of students in class and grade 15 total 4-3#d. Grade 7-5th Grade

MULTIPLE CLASS GARDEN (Garden used by more than one class or grade,
but not by the entire school)
Number of students involved in the garden and grades ________

ENTIRE SCHOOL GARDEN (Garden that is used by all grade levels at the
school)
Number of students involved in the garden and grade ________

TYPE of school garden that you use with your students. (Please mark only one)
Please indicate the number of hours a week, on average, your students spend in the garden. __ hours

1. Please mark all the activities that your students participate in prior to gardening.
   - Planning the garden
   - Preparing the garden
   - Designing the garden
   - Choosing plants
   - Other, mixing dolomite, vegetable fertilizer, (6-8-10) into the potting mix, also assembling buckets

2. Please mark all the activities that your students participate in while in the garden.
   - Planting
   - Watering
   - Weeding
   - Observing
   - Recording
   - Harvesting
   - Playing
   - Sitting
   - Fertilizing
   - Experimenting
   - Other, reading

Please indicate the percentage of time, on average, that you used the garden as an instructional tool in your classroom. __________

4. Please mark the subject area(s) into which you have incorporated school gardening. Check all that apply.
   - Math
   - Science
   - Social Studies
   - History
   - Health/Nutrition
   - Language Arts
   - Music
   - Physical Ed.
   - Environmental Ed.
   - Ethics (responsibility and nurturing)
   - Other, please specify

5. Please indicate the number of years that a school garden has been part of your curriculum. 2 years

6. Please indicate the types of volunteers that have helped you and your students with the garden.
   - Master Gardeners
   - Senior citizens
   - Parents
   - University students
   - Garden club members
   - 4-H members
   - High school students
   - FFA
   - Older students at your school
   - Other, please specify
7. Please indicate the source(s) of information used to assist in the incorporation of school gardening into your school's curriculum. Check all that apply.

- County Extension service
- Teacher in-service training
- Personal knowledge
- Educational journals/publications
- National Gardening Association’s Growlab/Growing ideas newsletter
- Other, please specify

8. Please indicate the types of educational material(s) used in the classroom to support the use of school gardening in the curriculum.

- Library books
- Filmstrips
- Textbooks
- Trade books
- Newspapers
- Other, please specify

***Please read and sign below***

By submitting the same you acknowledge and agree that the University of Florida (and Walt Disney World Co.) may reproduce the same, and all materials may be displayed (in part or in whole) at the 2010 Epcot® International Flower and Garden Festival and for other promotional materials. Such presentation materials (and School Garden packets) will NOT be returned to you (they will become the property of the University of Florida and Walt Disney World Co.) Finally, you acknowledge and agree that should your school be selected as a winner under the competition, then to the extent any of the photographs or materials submitted contain the names of likeness of students, teachers and/or others, you will be required to have adult individuals sign (and the parents/guardians of such students) sign consent/release forms provided by us so that we can display those photographs or materials concerning your winning garden. Such requirement would be a condition of your accepting the award.

I have read and understand the above.

Regina Haney  3-17-09
Signature  Date
GARDEN QUALITY

As a class we decided what type of garden we wanted. We voted on growing a salsa garden to coordinate it with a celebration of Cinca de Mayo. Next, we looked at recipes to see what we would need for our salsa and decided we would plant onions, tomatoes, jalapeño peppers, cilantro, and decided to grow Romaine Lettuce from seeds to allow the students to observe seeds in peat pots. Once, we decided on what to grow we had to decide which plants we would start from seeds or transplants. We researched the amount of time each plant would need to maturity and found we needed to start with the onions. Our class decided the onions would be from bulbs, the lettuce and cilantro from seeds, and the tomatoes and peppers from transplants. We then calculated on what dates we would need to start our other plants so that they all matured at the same time and documented all this on our garden calendar.

We chose to make our garden a container garden. What makes our garden unique is that we used recycled materials. Our plants are in five gallon recycled pickle buckets, the wicks for watering are recycled bottled water containers, we recycled the soil bags for most of the tops
for our buckets and used recycled bailing twine, from a student's farm, to hold the tops in place. We started our Romaine seeds out in a recycled plastic egg cartons and then transferred them to recycled two-liter soda bottles. A few of our Romaine seeds did not sprout and we reused the peat pots for our cilantro. We have made the environment a major focus of our gardening project by eliminating these materials from landing up in a landfill. Our students are not only caregivers to our garden they are caregivers to our planet earth.

**LEVEL OF INVOLVEMENT**

Our class is a Varying Exceptionalities classroom. We have students with several different types of disabilities. The majority of students are behind one or more grade levels. Many also have trouble with social skills. The class has students in grades 3rd — 5th. Our fifth graders are members of the Green Owl Patrol and Student Safety Patrols. They are role models in student leadership. They model examples of responsible behavior and leadership qualities by demonstration. They assist the younger students in all aspects in the classroom and with the gardening duties. We feel all of our gardeners practice leadership skills by being responsible citizens and stewards of our environment. The uniqueness of our garden has resulted in other classes and staff requesting tours. This has enabled our students to practice communication skills by explaining all the processes of container gardening.

We have been fortunate to have Mr. Shannon with the University of Florida at the Manatee County Extension office help facilitate with our gardening projects for the last two years. Mr. Shannon has
demonstrated the techniques used in container gardening. Mrs. Marsha Semrinec and Brian Semrinec have also contributed to our project. They have both been facilitators of District Congress in 4-H for container gardening in our county. Mr. Rob Semrinec, a 4-H Project Leader, has also offered his assistance. The Semrinec’s have donated materials and a lot of their time assisting us. They have also attended gardening classes sponsored by Earth Box. The Master Gardeners of Manatee County offered assistance with soil samples and suggestions to improve our soil quality along with several publications

We have also had support from our school. Mrs. Russell our principal has financially supported our project. The custodial personnel have provided help with labor. Ms. Schaffer, our art teacher, is assisting the students with an art project and will join our celebration by providing her famous guacamola dip. Several parents have donated materials for our project. We owe a lot of our success to all the individuals that have helped us. It takes an entire team to have your garden grow.

EDUCATIONAL RELEVANCE

Our gardening project covered all areas of the curriculum. We read several books on gardening. We covered social studies by reading books on how students turned a vacant lot into a community park and vegetable garden. Also, how people that don’t have outdoor yard space use containers to grow vegetables. We covered science by studying plant life cycles and what plants need to survive. We used the computer to follow the weather for our area. We used our math skills to calculate dates we needed to start our plants. We measured our pallets for area and perimeter. We documented a gardening journal to keep track of what we did. For writing we did an independent journal of
what we did that day and drew a picture to go with it. We also kept a
classroom journal documenting our gardening activities. The students
also took turns being the class photographer.

This project has had a positive impact on the students. They have
gained a great deal of respect for the environment and becoming quite
the experts on recycling and gardening. They have also become more
socially confident since giving the garden tours. I am positive this
experience will stay with them for a lifetime. Our garden has continued
to grow. We have added additional items. For instance, we are now
growing a sweet potato vine that I had brought in for the students to
observe how it was sprouting without soil or water. We have already
started thinking ahead to our garden next year.

Regina Haney
Gene Witt Elementary
200 Rye Road
Bradenton, FL 34212
941-741-3628 X2051
FLORIDA SUNSHINE STATE STANDARDS

MA.B.1.2.1: (4.2) Uses a wide variety of models to investigate measurements of length, area, and perimeter.

MAC.1.2.1.1. Uses appropriate geometric vocabulary to describe properties and attributes of two and three-dimensional figures (faces, diameter).

MA.B.1.2.2. — (4.1) Solves real-world problems involving measurement (inch, foot, yard) and temperatures (Fahrenheit)

MA.B.1.2.2. — (4.3) — Uses schedules, calendars, to solve real-world problems

LAB.2.2.1 - The student writes notes, comments, and observations that reflect comprehension of content.

LAB.2.2.3.4.1 — The student writes for a variety of occasions, and purposes.

LAC.1.2.1.4.1 — The student understands information presented orally.

SC.F.1.1.3.2.1 - The student knows some factors that influence the growth of living things (for example, amount of water, amount of light, amount and type of food, type of soil).

SC.F.1.1.5.2.2 — The student knows the main parts of plants (stems, leaves, roots, flowers).

SC.F.2.1.2.2.1 — The student knows that plants and animals are adapted to different ranges of temperature and moisture.

SC.G.2.1.1 — The student knows that if living things do not get food, water, shelter, and space, they will die.

SC.D.2.2.1.3.1 The student knows that reusing, recycling, and reducing the use of natural resources improve and protect the quality of life.
Salsa
Garden
Layout
Water Wise Gardeners

Please put one tally mark each time you use one gallon of water for our garden.

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Used 5 gallons of solarized water.

March 4
Jan/12/09
Today we planned our Salsa garden. We talked about the container garden and going green. Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle!
Our garden plants were planned out by reviewing a Salsa recipe.
By Andrew Bassino

Jan/13/09
We planted Florida sweet onions. The distance between the onions is 27.03 inches. The depth to plant was very shallow. The roots we covered with potting mixture, leaving the tiny bulb sitting on top of the potting mixture surface. Our teacher read from a book titled “All About VEGETABLES,” telling us about General Grant would not move my armies without onions.
By Sam Aoudi
We measured the height of the onions. We put ½ gallon and gallon jugs of water next to the containers to solarize (heat up the temperature of the water). This will help keep the onions warmer at night. Forecast of 37 degrees for the next three evenings.

by Nathan Koblishoff

1-15-09

Today in our salsa garden we added nine additional gallons, filled with water. We placed very close to the containers. This water will be solarized by the sun, heating up the water. It will help keep the temperature of the planting medium and onion transplants warmer, by Austin Kirby
We also discussed measuring the diameter and circumference of the five gallon buckets. One student took the soil for content to determine if we needed to add water to the containers.

by Austin Kirby

1-20-09

We helped carry the Onions because there was a heavy rain. They spent the night in the classroom. Onions are slow growers.

1-20-09 by Sean Hayne Ballard

Frost everywhere. Freeze warning forecast in our area for tonight. Onions brought into the classroom for the night. Temperature barely 21 degrees.
2/7/09
Sam and Tyler J. watered the F1 Sweet Onions. Dylan measured the tops of the F1 Sweet Onions.

By Ryan Payne

2/4/09
Freeze warning for Manatee County. Garden Helpers brought the two containers of Florida Sweet Onions into the classroom for the night.

By Melissa Martinez

2/5/09
All students that were present today learned about using peat pots and germination. They recycled clear egg cartons as green houses and planted Romaine lettuce seeds. Students calculated germination date and date to transplant and harvest date of the Romaine.

by Tyler Walker
2/6/09

Very cold weekend in the forecast, just to be on the safe side our garden helpers brought in the two containers of Fl. Sweet Onions into the classroom.

Tyler Johnson

2/9/09

Monday morning return to School. The eighth onion transplant showed a definite sign of growth. We carried the onions back outside. In the P.M., garden helpers watered the Fl. Sweet onions.

Dylan Reroma

2/11/09

We transplanted the remaining seedlings into two liter bottles taking one out of the recycled two liter.
2/11/09
Both sets of students mixed
the dolomite lime, slow
release fertilizer, and
potting mix together.

2/18/09
Students planted 5
containers with Scarlett
Tomatoes. They also reseeded
the tomato containers.
Students also used one tablespoon
of calcium nitrate per gallon
of water for the Florida
Sweet Onions. This is being
used to increase the size
of the bulb.

By Andrew Zaffina
February 20th, 2009

Freeze warning tonight. Students placed the romaine and tomatoes up next to the building to protect them from the freeze. Friday, we had to put all desks and chairs on the floor in classroom because the carpet is getting cleaned. We did not have enough room to bring the plants inside. The onions we left out on the desk.

by Dylan Rennone

2/23/09

Tomatoes and romaine survived. The freeze and are doing fine. Students moved the containers from against the building back onto the deck.

by Sean Pyane
2-25-09

We observed seeds, discussed shapes, sizes, and differences. We recycled pot
pots from the remaining to be reused
for starting coriander/cilantro. We
mixed the fertilizer and dolomite into the
potting mixture. Then we transplanted
Jalapeno peppers. We cut the potting
mixture bag into fourths. We secured
the tops using recycled building twine.
Next we watered the containers. We
used a magnifying glass to examine
the seeds and plants. When observing
the Jalapeno plants I found a small
spider.

By Jorge Marquez

March 2, 2009

Freeze Warning we checked weather
web.com for weather report.
Romaine Plots brought into the
Classroom. Tomatoes and Jalapeno
Peppers from brought up against the
side of the building under the
overhang to protect plants from
freezing. Garden helpers water the
mini greenhouses with the eyewash.
March 3rd 2009

Andrew and Felipe carried the romaine flats out to our pallet area so the romaine could get some sunshine during school hours. We carried the romaine flats back into the classroom because of the cold weather warning for our location. We used the magnifying glass to observe the sprouting cilantro/coriander seed. We used the eyedropper to water our seedlings in the peat pots.

Tyler J

March 4th 2009

Students used the clear packing tape down the identification labels for each bucket. Students also carried the containers back to the pallet area. School Warning is over.

Jorge
March 9th, 2009

Today Mr. Shannon, Agricultural Assistant from Florida A and M University came to our class. He taught us about container gardening. He taught us how to use his soil mixer to mix the dolomite and fertilizer. We transplanted our chili pepper plants today. 

by Sam A

March 12, 2009

Today we started designing our garden journal covers. We also watched a Cincin de Mayo movie to help us learn about the celebration.

March 14, 2009

Today we gave a garden tour to Mrs. Bulfin's first grade classes. It was fun telling them about our Salsa Garden.

March 17th, 2009

Today we reused a plastic sign to design our welcome sign for our Salsa Garden.

by Dylan Remone
Day 1:  Mrs. Haney
Carlie, Austin, RYAH
Melyssann, Felina, Adams
Dylan P., Weston, Sign P.
Jorge, Nathan, Tyler

[Hand-drawn images of maracas and fireworks]