Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom (MAITC)
School Garden Guide for K-12 Teachers

Project Overview
MAITC is developing a school garden guide providing instructions for starting and maintaining a garden, along with lessons linked to academic standards for students K-12. We want to help schools build clear connections between their classrooms, school gardens, and cafeterias. MAITC wants to assist students in understanding and appreciating the link between what they are learning in the classroom with what they see and touch in the school garden, and what they eat in the school cafeteria.

Timeline
Development of the guide is currently underway. Beginning in May a draft of the guide will be available for teachers to pilot lessons. A final copy of the guide will be available at the start of the 2013-2014 school year.

Availability
The garden guide will be available free of charge. An electronic copy of the completed guide will be posted on the MAITC website at [http://www.mda.state.mn.us/kids](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/kids). Printed copies of the guide will be available upon request; details will be provided on the website.

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Table of Contents Draft

1. Starting a School Garden
   Teacher Information: benefits of gardens, collaborating, goals and action plan, funding, garden location, examples of school gardens in Minnesota
   Lessons: importance of plants, planning a garden

2. Choosing a Garden and Selecting Crops
   Teacher Information: Minnesota growing seasons, types of gardens, crop selection
   Lessons: plant growth requirements, photosynthesis, hydroponics

3. Preparing and Planting the Garden
   Teacher Information: soil testing, planting dates, compost
   Lessons: seed germination, soil, compost, planting the garden

4. Maintaining and Sustaining
   Teacher Information: water, thinning, weeding, fertilizer, pests, summer care, sustainability
   Lessons: plant food, garden pests

5. Harvest, Nutrition and Recipes
   Teacher Information: organizing the harvest, uses for produce, food safety, school cafeteria resources, recipes
   Lessons: food safety, edible plant parts

6. Resources