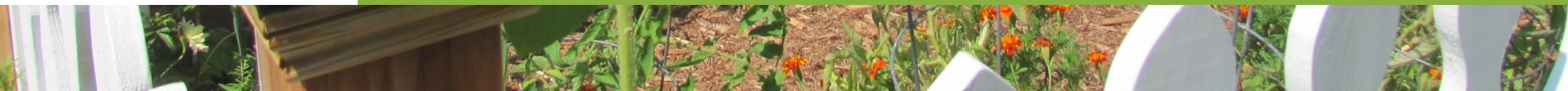




**MASSACHUSETTS  
FARM TO SCHOOL**

# School Garden Maintenance in the Summer

## May 1, 2024



# MASS. FARM TO SCHOOL OVERVIEW

Mass. Farm to School strengthens local farms and fisheries and promotes healthy communities by increasing local food purchasing and education at schools.

Get involved through our:

- Professional learning opportunities
- Networking
- Policy/Advocacy
- Communications



# Presenter: Peter Germano

Peter Germano is the school garden coordinator for Webster Public Schools.

# Start from the beginning!

The best place to start arranging for year long support is at the **inception of your gardening ideas.**

Create your **core team** to include:

- Food Service Director
- Head Custodian
- Master Gardeners
- Diehard Gardeners
- Possible parent involvement
- Neighbors



# Head Custodian

Consult with the Head Custodian:

- For best placement of garden footprint
- Ongoing maintenance of adjacent grounds
- Possible summer support
- Any future garden expansion



# Master Gardeners

Seek out Master Gardeners:

- For advice on garden placement
- Soil recommendations & amendments
- Produce varieties
- Fertilization
- Pathologies
- Building raised beds



# Diehard Gardeners

- Those people who have prior experience gardening
- Gardening soldiers who will take the lead and share their knowledge
- Help those primarily in the classroom germinating seedlings and subsequent care



# Parent Involvement

- Often discussed
- Difficult logistics
- Availability & transportation concerns





# What needs attention during summer months

What maintenance is required:

- Watering
- Weeding
- Harvesting
- Second crops



# What are this gardens watering requirements?

- How long does it take to water manually?
- Is an automatic watering system viable?
- What Staff lives in the immediate proximity?
- What about parents?
- What about Custodians?
- Where is the water source?
- Is the hose and nozzle readily available?
- What is the rain forecast
- When did it last rain?
- Is there a greenhouse involved?



# Fertilizing, Weeding, Harvesting

- Can these 3 functions wait until core group returns?
- Slow-release fertilizers
- Ground cover, for example, cardboard, mulch, hay etc.?



# Other considerations

- Pollinator gardens
- Fruit Trees
- Chickens



# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES & LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- Massachusetts Farm to School
  - [www.massfarmtoschool.org](http://www.massfarmtoschool.org) - Visit our website to stay up to date on upcoming webinars and other professional learning opportunities
  - [Subscribe to Our Newsletter](#)
- [Harvest of the Month for Educators](#)
- [MFTS Events](#)

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[www.massfarmtoschool.org](http://www.massfarmtoschool.org)

Peter Germano:  
[PGermano@swcec.org](mailto:PGermano@swcec.org)

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