

# Summer STEM Garden

Science, Technology, Engineering, Math



## Planting Your Seed Garden

Gardening can benefit your child's development

Numerous studies have shown that garden-based education improves academic performance and may lead to higher test scores (especially in the areas of math and science) with overall improvement on standardized achievement tests and improved positive attitudes toward learning.

~Center for Ecoliteracy – Findings from the Edible Schoolyard Study, 2003; Smith and Motsenbocke, 2005, Lieberman & Hoody, 1998, Dirks & Orvis, 2005.

1

### IDENTIFY

Learn plant anatomy and understand how it affects a plant's growth

2

### QUESTION

Watch your plants grow and write observations on your H.H. calendar

3

### EXPERIMENT

Experiment with soil, technology, and more!



[SCRATCH.mit.edu](http://SCRATCH.mit.edu)

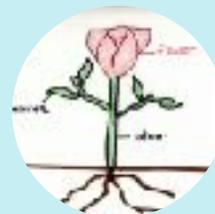
Your child can learn to program!



[HeavensHarvest.com](http://HeavensHarvest.com)

Young kiddos? Together, visit our site; discover a plants' anatomy.

### Win the Homestead Seed Kit



Share your work and photos on H.H.'s FaceBook page for a chance to win!

## Garden STEM Ideas: Kids to Teens

Guiding Question: What can you do with knowledge of plants to benefit yourself? Your family? Your community?

Answering the “Guiding Question”, with specific examples, sets the purpose for the STEM activities. Many of those we will share with you are aligned with the Common Core Standards for education. With guidance and TALK, these activities can be shared with any child, from 3-93!

Get the kids (and yourself) motivated by posting the H.H. **calendar on your refrigerator, a helpful reminder for daily garden maintenance**. Most importantly, use it to take notes, such as: when to fertilize, chart measurements, make observations, and document your own questions for further research.

These activities are a springboard into gardening and learning - together!

**“Your greatest contribution may not be something you do, but someone you raise.”**  
~Andy Stanley



### Use Higher Order Thinking Questions to start your conversation

Instead of simply memorizing facts and ideas, children need to engage in higher levels of thinking to reach their fullest potential. Practicing Higher Order Thinking (HOT) skills will strengthen their abilities to understand, evaluate, and apply information they know to find solutions to new and existing problems.

Asking open-ended questions that don't have one “right” answer gives children confidence to respond in creative ways without being afraid of being “wrong.” ... Be prepared to respond to your child's answers with even more thought-provoking questions to continue to encourage higher levels of thinking, also opening up the lines of communication between parent and child!  
*Visit our website to download your copy of the STEM gardening activities.*

## WHY GARDENING?

TEACHING CHILDREN TO GARDEN GIVES THEM IMMEASURABLE LIFE SKILLS OF INDEPENDENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY WHILE ENCOURAGING THEM TO EAT MORE VEGETABLES AS WELL. THE DAILY ACTIVITY IN THE GARDEN CAN BECOME AN EXCELLENT FAMILY TIME THAT IS A COMMUNAL PROJECT TO ENCOURAGE TEAM BUILDING AND INDEPENDENT SKILLS. ~ANN BARNES, ONEGREENPLANET

