



School Garden Safety Checklist

Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom 2013

Item	Pass? Y/N	Comments
Planning		
You have had a soil test done		
If there is lead in your soil, you have taken the appropriate steps		
You know the history of your school ground use		
You have called dig safe if you are going to dig in-ground beds or plant trees/shrubs		
You have a procedure to check materials coming into the garden		
You have a composting plan to produce good quality safe compost		
You have scheduled periodic safety walk-throughs and assessments		
You have an incident log book in the garden.		
Health		
There is access to hand-washing with soap near the garden		
Gloves are available to your students		
Students are required to wear closed toed shoes in the garden		
You have spare boots for students		
Drinking water is available		
You have lead free garden hoses		



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Students have hats to protect from the sun		
Your garden is near the nurse or you have a first aid plan		
Hand Tools		
Your tools are securely and neatly stored		
Your tools are all in good working order		
There are tools of different sizes for small children		
You have a wire brush to clean tools off after use		
Steps are provided for reaching things on high shelves?		
Power tools (e.g. drills) are tested and in good working order		
Wires are free of bare spots and are not trailing on the ground		
Electrical sockets are not overloaded		
Training is given to operate all hand and power tools to all users before they can use them.		
In the garden		
You do not have/are aware of poisonous plants or parts of plants		



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There are no low-hanging branches across paths		
Ground is even, or uneven places are flagged		
There are no harmful animals or insects living in the garden		
Ponds or water features have necessary safety precautions (e.g. mesh across ponds)		
In the greenhouse or potting area		
Work areas are clear and neat		
Floors are even and free of clutter		
Harmful substances (e.g. Bleach) are stored securely.		
Education		
All users and volunteers in the garden are orientated to safety procedures		
Garden rules are clearly posted		
Users are alerted to potential allergens in the garden		
Information about who to contact to use the garden is available		
Your Items		



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Sources:

Food For Life Program - UK. www.gardenorganic.org/uk
Good Agricultural Practices "GAPs" program



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