

Don't Eat that Mushroom: Food Safety in the School Garden

Nina Heinzinger Whitney Pratt

#### A Brief Story---

Students Sick With One Hospitalized
 After Eating Mushrooms from School
 Garden – YouTube

 L.A. school garden closed after children sickened by mushroom | Food Safety News





#### Outbreaks and Produce



- Leafy Greens--Salmonella
- Bagged Salad Mix--Cyclospora
- Onions---Salmonella
  - 72 cases in MT

How does produce become contaminated?

water soil nearby animals processing

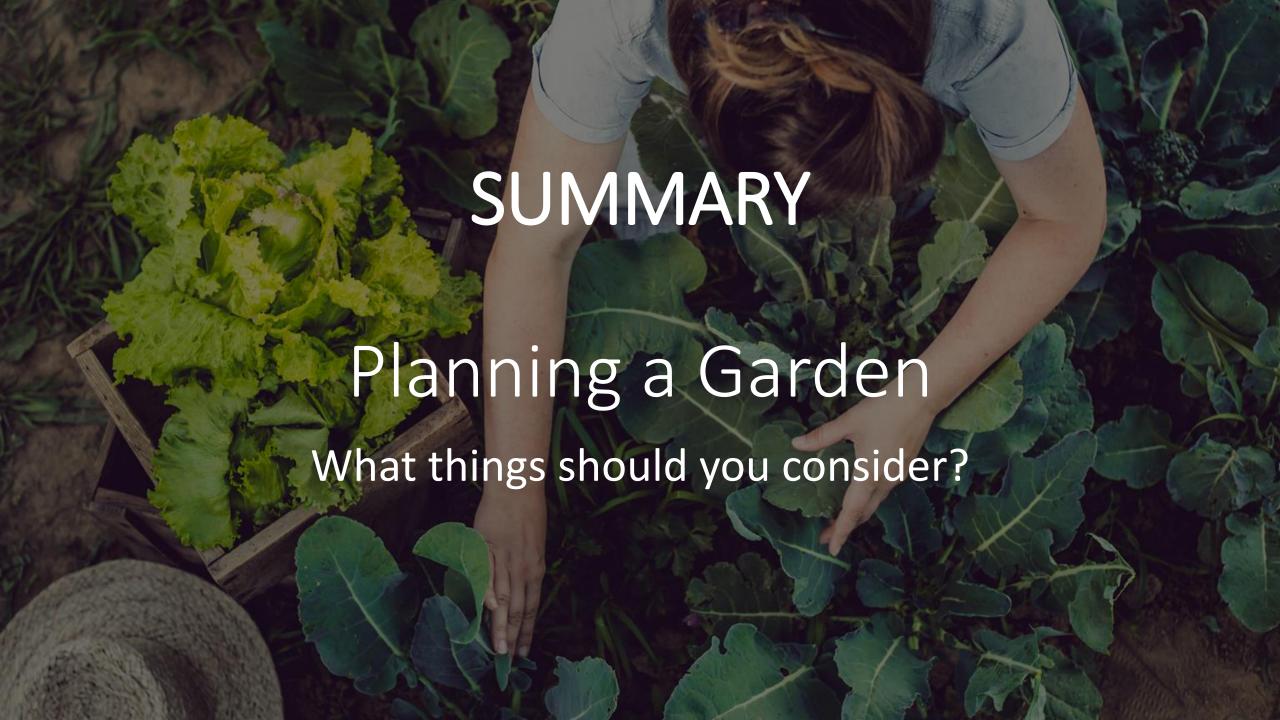
#### Food Safety in the Garden

- By the end of this webinar, participants will be able to:
  - Identify food safety concerns when planning a garden
  - List important considerations for food safety during the growing season
  - Develop a plan for safe harvest and consumption of produce from the garden



#### Wisdom from Whitney

- Be clear about the purpose(s) of the garden and plan accordingly
  - Production garden
  - Outdoor classroom garden
  - Sensory garden
  - Food forest/permaculture garden
  - Native plants/indigenous food ways garden



# Planning a Garden

- Site Selection
  - Previous uses
  - Drainage (in and out)
  - Soil test (for contaminants)



### Planning a Garden

Materials

Soil

Building materials

Water



#### Planning a Garden

- Fencing
  - Animal exclusion







#### Wisdom from Whitney

- Growing successes and failures
  - Contaminated soil at CSE in Whitefish
  - Production garden at Kalispell School District
  - Need to feed soil and plants in Columbia Falls garden



#### Growing a Garden

- Chemicals
- Fertilizers

Organic or Synthetic











# Growing a Garden

- Use of raw manure
- Compost
- Animal products in compost
- Donations





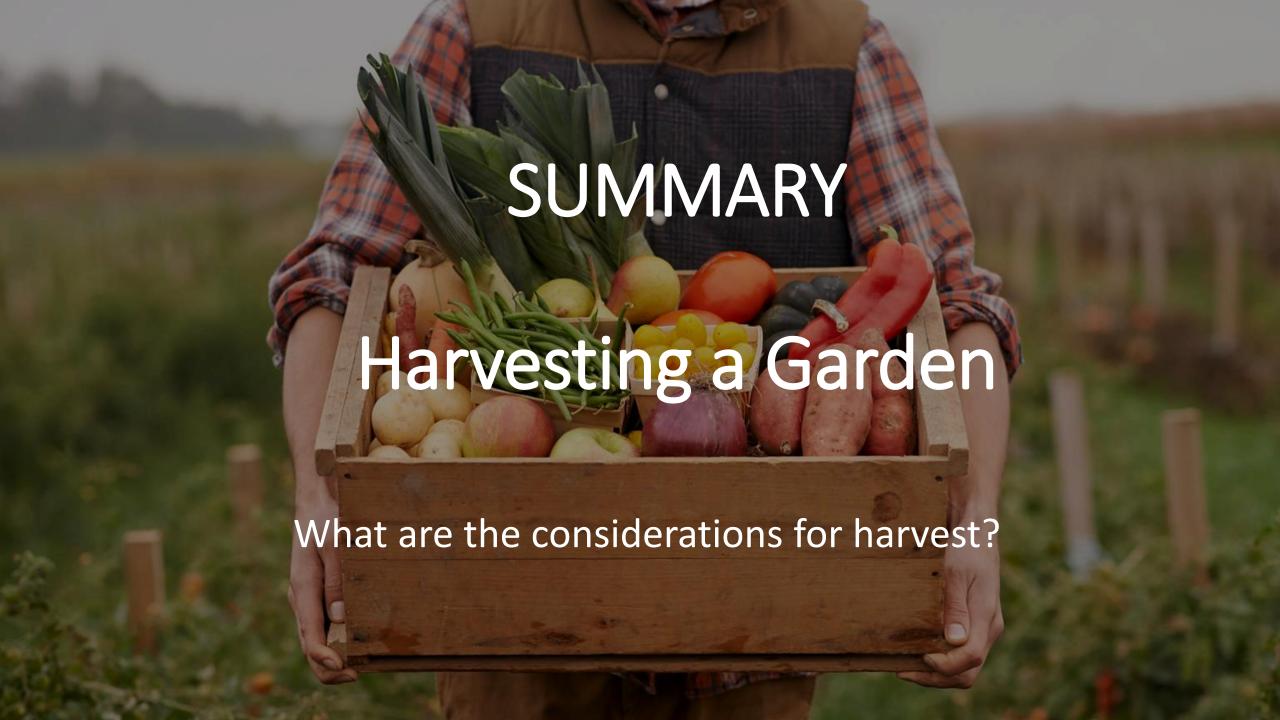
- Plant Selection
- Labeling





#### Wisdom from Whitney

- Harvest successes and failures
  - Handwashing station
  - Tools appropriately cleaned and stored
  - Involvement of students
  - Destination of harvest





#### Harvesting a Garden

- Illness policy
- Handwashing
- Bathrooms
- Eating/drinking





#### Working with your Partners

- Coordination with staff, families
- Preferred quantity/quality
- Refrigeration
- Distribution plans
  - Quality and quantity matters

#### Have a Plan—for Everything!

- Planning
- Growing
- Harvesting
- Delivery
- Distribution

### FOOD SAFETY FIRST



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Questions??