



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

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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



A top-down photograph of a person with long brown hair, wearing a light blue short-sleeved shirt, reaching into a garden to harvest a head of green lettuce. The lettuce is being placed into a wooden crate. The garden is filled with various green leafy plants. In the bottom left corner, a portion of a straw hat is visible.

BREAKOUT GROUPS

Planning a Garden

What things should you consider?

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

A top-down photograph of a person with long brown hair, wearing a light blue short-sleeved shirt, reaching into a garden to harvest leafy green vegetables. The person's hands are visible, touching the leaves. To the left, a wooden crate is filled with freshly harvested, bright green lettuce. The garden is filled with various green plants, including large-leafed vegetables like kale or chard. The overall lighting is soft, suggesting an overcast day or late afternoon. The text 'SUMMARY' is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font in the upper center of the image.

SUMMARY

Planning a Garden

What things should you consider?

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



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BREAKOUT GROUPS

Growing a Garden

What factors should you consider?

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

A wooden raised garden bed filled with various plants. In the foreground, there are large-leafed watermelon plants. Behind them, there are rows of strawberries, lettuce, and other leafy greens. The garden bed is made of light-colored wood and is situated on a grassy lawn. The text "SUMMARY" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font in the upper center of the image.

SUMMARY

Growing a Garden

What factors should you consider?

Growing a Garden

- Chemicals
- Fertilizers
- Organic or Synthetic



Growing a Garden

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



Growing a Garden

- Plant Selection
- Labeling



A person wearing a plaid shirt and a dark vest is holding a wooden crate filled with various fresh produce. The crate contains leeks, green beans, yellow and red tomatoes, red bell peppers, sweet potatoes, onions, and apples. The background is a blurred garden with wooden stakes in the ground.

BREAKOUT GROUPS

Harvesting a Garden

What are the considerations for harvest?
What is in your food safety plan?

Wisdom from Whitney

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

A person wearing a plaid shirt and a dark vest is holding a large wooden crate filled with a variety of fresh produce. The crate contains leeks, green beans, yellow and red bell peppers, red onions, sweet potatoes, and several apples. The background is a soft-focus garden with rows of plants and wooden stakes.

SUMMARY

Harvesting a Garden

What are the considerations for harvest?



Harvesting a Garden

- Illness policy
- Handwashing
- Bathrooms
- Eating/ drinking

A whimsical scene featuring two Star Wars Stormtroopers in a garden. One trooper is in the foreground, crouching and reaching for a ripe red raspberry on a green leaf. Another trooper is in the background, holding a small woven basket filled with raspberries. The background is filled with lush green foliage, creating a soft, natural setting.

Harvesting the Garden

- “Seldomly served raw”
- Ready to Eat foods
- Bare hand contact
- Glove use
- Containers—clean/sanitize
- Transport vehicles



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??