

Grow Your Own Food: FAQ

Is there a cost to participate?

No! This program is completely free to any 4th grade teacher within DuPage County.

What will each classroom receive?

Trays of tomato plants- 1 plant per student and teacher
1 planting pot per student and teacher
1 popsicle stick per student
Bags of potting soil- Amount determined by student number
3 table clothes
3 containers for soil
6 scooping cups
1 watering jug
1 Tomato care instruction sheet per student
1 Growth chart per student
1 Recipe per student

Is there a lesson provided?

A 15-minute video featuring the horticulture staff at COD and DCFB will be provided. Students will learn about plant needs, seed germination, and tomato care. A PowerPoint lesson will also be available for any teacher wishing to expand upon the topics.

How will the transplanting activity be led?

A mandatory training video and activity manual will be sent to each teacher in early April. It will walk the teacher through the transplanting activity. Please note, this activity will be led by the teacher. There will not be a DCFB staff member present for the activity.

How long will the total activity take?

The total time for the activity will take approximately 90 minutes depending on the number of adults and students in the classroom. This includes the video lesson, set up, transplanting activity, and clean up.

How will the classrooms receive the supplies?

A DCFB volunteer will deliver the supplies to your school office on a designated date. Teachers will need to have a plan in place with their office staff ahead of the drop off. Please note, we will visit each school only once. If multiple classes are participating, you will need to coordinate with each other to choose

your delivery date. If you have a parent volunteer who would like to pick up the supplies from College of DuPage, this would be extremely helpful!

How long can the plants sit before transplanting?

For best results plants will need to be transplanted the day following delivery. If you must wait longer, you will need to take care to water the plants and provide a warm sunny space for them.

Will the students water the plants in the classroom as part of the activity?

If students are taking their tomato plants home the same day as the activity, we recommend that they wait to water until they arrive at home that afternoon. This is to prevent water leaking and creating a mess between school and home. However, if the students are leaving their plants in the classroom for another day, the plants will need to be watered.