

Host the Little Green Thumbs Program



It's no secret that Little Green Thumbs (LGT) has a big, bold vision: a garden in every school and a school in every garden. Help us achieve this vision by delivering the Little Green Thumbs program in your province, state, or region, as an Authorized Little Green Thumbs Host Organization.

What is LGT?

Little Green Thumbs (LGT for short) is an indoor gardening program that brings Elementary School classrooms to life.

Teachers are equipped with a complete indoor garden set-up, as well as educational resources, training and in-class support by Little Green Thumbs host organizations. A Little Green Thumbs garden is an extension of a traditional classroom and an engaging tool to inspire inquiry-based, cross-curricular and experiential learning.

Our indoor gardens require 24 square feet of classroom space (a 6' x 4' space is suggested). Garden kits include soil boxes, grow light, timer and hanging equipment. Garden boxes are self-watering, which combined with the timer ensure teachers are confident that their garden will be safe and healthy when they leave their classroom, whether on evenings, weekends, or holidays.

Why the LGT program?

Delivering the Little Green Thumbs program locally is a great way to gain exposure to new teachers and cross-promote your organization's other programs. Little Green Thumbs delivers a unique and dynamic learning experience, encouraging young people to value their health, environment, and agriculture.





Little Green Thumbs teachers integrate their garden into several aspects of classroom life and learning, including math, language arts, science and health. Teachers structure simple weekly maintenance tasks as an opportunity to build a sense of responsibility and accomplishment in their students. A classroom garden contributes to an inclusive learning environment, where all students can be successful regardless of ability. Pretty big ideas... but our little green thumbs are always up for the challenge!

As students cooperate to care for their garden they explore nutrition, environmental stewardship, sustainable food systems and the relationships between them. In addition to academic outcomes, school gardens are increasingly recognized as valuable classroom tools that support student well-being, transform learning environments and help teachers to engage students with diverse learning needs.

The Little Green Thumbs program regularly evolves through the input of our teachers and coordinator network. Resources are continually developed, and improvements to the garden kit are ongoing. Your organization will stay up to date on all program developments, as well as ongoing support, training, and professional development for your assigned coordinator.

Join our network!

If you're a non-profit or charitable organization providing education opportunities for elementary students, then Little Green Thumbs may be a perfect addition to your program portfolio!

Little Green Thumbs is a turnkey program that can add immediate impact to your line-up of education programs. Forget the stress of building a new program from the ground up. Little Green Thumbs has everything you need to get your program up and running.

Little Green Thumbs is eager to partner with organizations who are:

- 1. Passionate about providing teachers with top quality programs;**
- 2. Engaged in environmental, food literacy or agriculture education;**
- 3. Working with elementary schools or eager to work with elementary schools.**



Our gardens are growing in schools across Canada in classrooms of all shapes and sizes!

What are the responsibilities of a Host Organization?

Host organizations coordinate all Little Green Thumb activities in their province or region and contribute to the continuous improvement of the program by:

- Selecting and training new teachers and providing in-class support;
- Attending annual, year-end celebration events at schools;
- Procuring and distributing materials;
- Participating in the bi-annual Little Green Thumbs coordinators' gathering;
- Sharing the story and impact of Little Green Thumbs.

What support do you receive?

1.

Training

We provide in-person training for your organization and your designated Little Green Thumbs coordinator. Your organization will be provided with an operations manual to guide you through implementing the program, as well as ongoing support from the National HUB.

2.

Access to LGT resources

Our resources are well-informed and practical, reflecting the rich experience of teachers and coordinators involved in the program. Little Green Thumbs provides teacher-developed lesson plans and student resources, including the Little Green Thumbs teacher manual, how-to videos, student journals, posters, and seeds.

3.

Marketing and communications material

You will receive ready-to-use marketing and communications materials, which includes teacher recruitment materials, banner, news releases, newsletters, print promotional materials and sponsorship package. Add your organizational logo to our marketing materials and customize our communication pieces with your key messages.

5.

Ongoing Support and Professional Development.

LGT Coordinators are invited to attend a National Hub sponsored two-day bi-annual coordinator feedback and training session, as well as attend the annual School Garden Summit at no cost. Little Green Thumbs host organizations work together to share best practices during regular conference calls. As the program develops, LGT coordinators will receive up-to-date training on new resources and program developments.

6.

Database access

Our national database system automates teacher garden supply orders and teacher feedback in your region. You have full administrative access to your region's information without the cost of setting up or trouble of administrating your own system.



"One of the most common stories I hear from teachers in various schools is how many students tried vegetables that they had never tried before. For many students there is excitement when a new flower or fruit is found and a curiosity builds over many weeks"

- Kira Rowat, Little Green Thumbs Coordinator, Agriculture in the Classroom Manitoba

Funding

The Little Green Thumbs program is an exciting investment... for us and for our delivery partners!

Host Organizations are required to secure funding for costs associated with the garden kit equipment, local teacher training, and coordinator time and travel. Print materials, seeds, coordinator training, program development, resource development and database and website costs are covered by the LGT National HUB. In this way, locally or provincially secured funding can be used towards program execution with no additional costs for program development. The LGT National Hub assists you with communication materials to help you in search of funding, and at times can direct you to current partnership opportunities.

Ready to grow?

Visit www.LittleGreenThumbs.org for more information or contact:

Brit MacDonald
National Program Director
Phone: (306) 850-1342
Email: info@littlegreenthumbs.org

