



# **MSU Extension Macomb County Green School Resources**

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District Director



## Our mission

Michigan State University Extension helps people improve their lives through an educational process that applies knowledge to critical issues, needs and opportunities.



# Gardening assistance

- MSU Extension Lawn and Garden Hotline (888-678-3464), M, W, F: 9 – Noon
- Ask Extension online help
- Staffed by Horticulture educators and trained Extension Master Gardener volunteers







# Smart Gardening

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## Preparing the smart vegetable garden

**Pamela J. Bennett and Denise Johnson, Ohio State University Extension**

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### Soil preparation

Productive vegetable gardens are based on a strong foundation, and that foundation is the soil. Healthy soils consist of different non-living mineral particles, such as sand, silt and clay, as well as organic matter and living organisms. Healthy soils provide an environment conducive to root growth which leads to a healthy plant and fruit and vegetable production. The Smart Gardening tip sheet "Smart gardens begin with healthy soil" provides complete information about soil specifics.



**A smart vegetable raised bed with walking paths in between.**

First, start with a soil test in order to know what nutrients are needed as well as the pH and organic content of the soil. Refer to the Smart Gardening tip sheet "Don't Guess - Soil Tests!" for details on how to do a soil test. Soil tests can be purchased online at the MSU Extension Bookstore ([searchfor\\$15.44atmsubookstore.edu](http://searchfor$15.44atmsubookstore.edu)).

Once you have the results, you will know what amendments and in what proportion to add for best results in the vegetable garden. Only add the recommended amounts of fertilizer based on the soil test results. Over application of phosphorus and nitrogen fertilizers is a known contaminant of surface and ground water.

**A collaboration with:**



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**  
 COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
 AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

If you are breaking ground for a new garden, eliminate grass or weeds that might be in the planned garden area first. One method is to remove the grass or sod by hand. This is most feasible when an instant result is needed. The sod chunks or grass removed can be added to a compost pile and re-entered to the garden system at a later time. However, this method will also require some organic matter be added to the soil below the old turf roots.

There are several methods that employ a "smothering" technique that will accomplish this task without using chemicals. Laying down a sheet of plastic and securing it with weights around the edges will effectively kill vegetation beneath except for the most stubborn of perennial weeds. Another easy way to smother weeds is to place several sheets of newspaper down in the



Organic residues can easily be seen on the soil surface in the smart gardening system. At times gone so, soils should be crumbly and easy to plant.





## Smart Gardening



# Health and Nutrition

## Policy, System and Environment Change (PSE)

- A lasting impact on health outcomes that not only focuses on an individual, but changing the context, or conditions in the places we live, learn, work and play.
  - Example: school gardens, healthy snacks, increase recess time
  - School or classroom must have 50% of students receive free or reduced lunch

## Direct Education

- Six week series
  - USDA approved curriculum
  - Typically meet once a week for six weeks
  - One Time Presentation
    - Variety of topics-based off what your group would like
    - 20 minute minimum



# PSE and Macomb County Green Schools

- Provide coaching to aid in making changes the school is looking to improve on.
- Mini Grant Funding (\$1,000-\$1,500) to help make these changes
  - Garden Education
  - Fruit and Vegetables
  - Food Waste
  - Increase water consumption



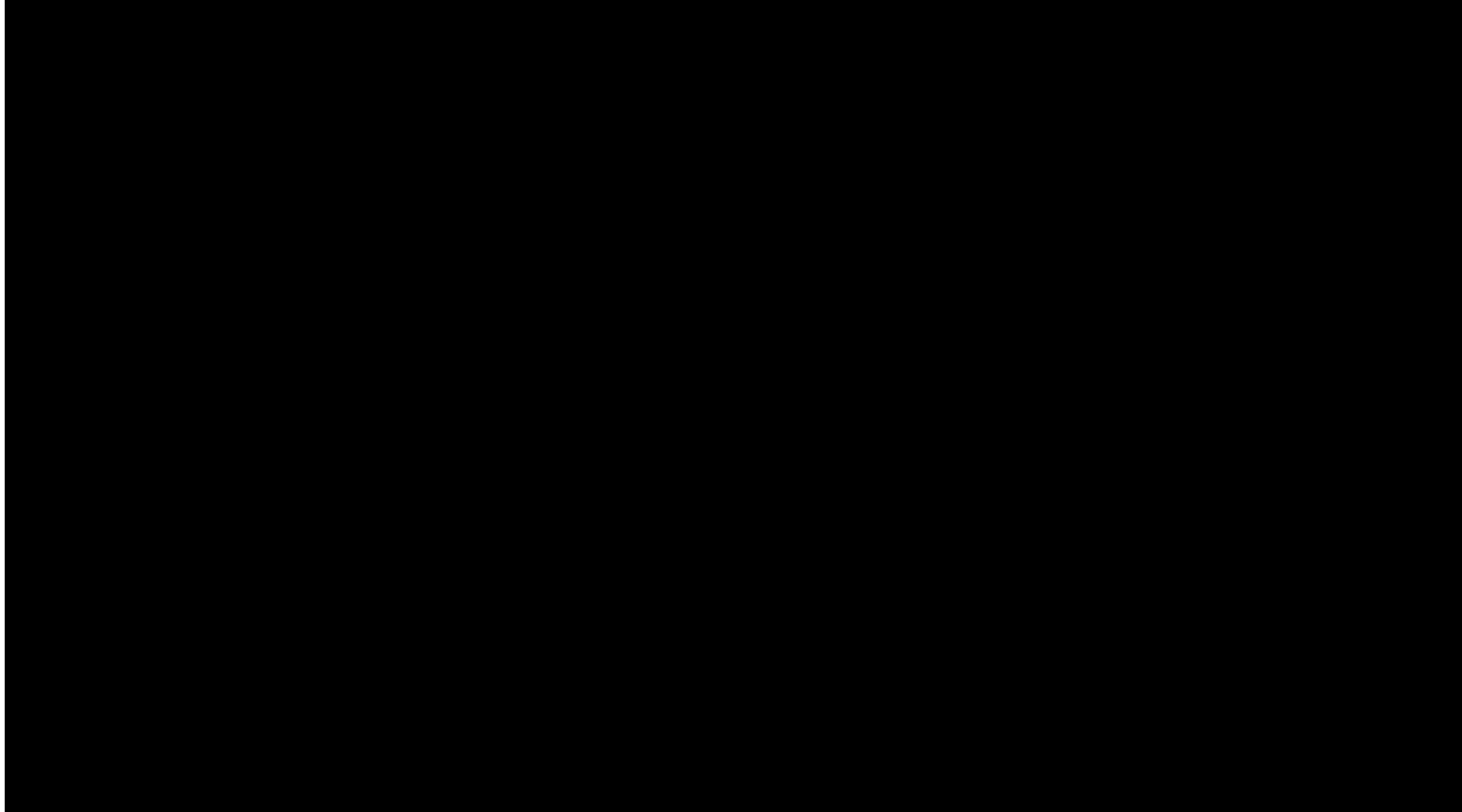


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# Brand New CGLL Website & Resource Library







# Great Lakes Literacy education exploration (GLLee)

A **free** digital introductory collection of resources and partners assembled in three easy steps to help teachers and youth explore Great Lakes Literacy through place-based education and stewardship opportunities in your school and community!

Learn more: <https://cgl.org/signature-program/great-lakes-literacy-education-exploration-glee/>





# Stay Connected: CGLL Newsletter

Spring 2023  
NEWSLETTER

Center for Great Lakes Literacy

*Developing a community of Great Lakes literate educators, students, scientists, environmental professionals, and community members dedicated to improved Great Lakes stewardship.*



<https://www.cgll.org/connect/>



Contact:

[Angela Scapini](mailto:scapinia@msu.edu)  
[scapinia@msu.edu](mailto:scapinia@msu.edu)

(586) 469-5060

## Attention Michigan Educators!

2023 Lake Huron  
Place-Based  
Stewardship  
Education Teacher  
Summer Institute

July 17-19, 2023  
SAVE THE DATE!



Want to connect your students with hands-on learning opportunities that support stewardship and address standards? Join this Great Lakes & climate change focused professional learning opportunity: the Lake Huron Place-Based Stewardship Education Teacher Summer Institute. Visit <https://bit.ly/2023institute> for more information.

## Featured Story - Wisconsin

Students collaborate to test Milwaukee-area water quality



This year, more than 300 students at six Milwaukee-area schools are investigating the importance of clean water, from our faucets to Lake Michigan.

[Read More Here](#)



**JR MASTER  
GARDNERS**

**SCHOOL GARDENING  
CLUBS**

**CONTACT:  
586-469-5979**

**4-H  
GROWS HERE**







# Questions?

**Contact:**

**[msue.macomb@county.msu.edu](mailto:msue.macomb@county.msu.edu)**

**586-469-5180**

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United States Department of Agriculture



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To file a program discrimination complaint, a complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which can be obtained online, at <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

**mail:**  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

**fax:**  
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442;

**email:**  
[program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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Para presentar una queja por discriminación en el programa, el reclamante debe completar un formulario AD-3027, Formulario de queja por discriminación del programa del USDA, que se puede obtener en línea, en <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027s.pdf> en cualquier oficina del USDA, llamando al (866) 632-9992, o escribiendo una carta dirigida al USDA. La carta debe contener el nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del reclamante, y una descripción escrita de la supuesta acción discriminatoria con suficiente detalle para informar al Subsecretario de Derechos Civiles (ASCR, por sus siglas en inglés) sobre la naturaleza y la fecha de la presunta violación de los derechos civiles. La carta o el formulario AD-3027 completado debe enviarse al USDA por medio de:

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