

## Questions to Ask When Starting a School Garden

If you're planning a school garden for the first time, there are a number of questions to consider.

### **About the plan...**

- ❖ What are your goals in starting a school or class garden?
- ❖ How do you plan to use the garden as an instructional tool?
- ❖ Do you have support from the administration and custodian?
- ❖ What kinds of tools and supplies will you need?
- ❖ How much will it cost and how can you find funds and materials?
- ❖ How can you ensure maintenance of the garden during the summer?

### **About the potential site...**

- ❖ Is it well drained?
- ❖ Is it easily accessible and protected from vandalism?
- ❖ Does it have full sunlight for at least six hours a day?
- ❖ Is it reasonably level?
- ❖ Does it have access to water?
- ❖ How healthy is the soil? Do you have at least 6 to 12 inches of topsoil?
- ❖ What needs to be done to prepare or enhance the soil?

### **About cultivating support...**

- ❖ Can you ask parents to donate materials, help prepare the site, work with students, or provide support through the summer?
- ❖ Are there local farmers or gardeners who might help prepare the site (e.g., provide plowing, manure, or lime)?
- ❖ Are there local garden clubs, senior centers, master gardeners, or high school groups who might be willing to work with students in the garden?
- ❖ Are there nursery or local business people who might be willing to "adopt" your program and/or donate gardening tools and supplies, materials for building raised beds, and so on?