

Wildflower Scavenger Hunt

The race is on!

Spring is wildflower season!

Get a list of native North Texas Wildflowers from the Coppel Biodiversity Education Center web-site.

Visit Coppel Nature Park each week between now and June 1, to discover what's in bloom.

Take pictures of the flowers you see.

Upload the pictures to the iNaturalist App.

Then stop by the Biodiversity Education Center to receive a Texas native wildflower seed packet.

Deadline is June 1.

<https://www.coppelltx.gov/881/Classes-Programs>



Coppel ISD School Garden Newsletter

In this issue:

- Winter Weather
- Wildflower Scavenger Hunt
- Sweet Potato II, the sequel
- Great Grapefruit
- Earth Day
- Spring Farm Fresh Challenge
- From Farmer Larry: Spring Garden Pests

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A WEEK CAN MAKE!

Farmer Larry checks the damage and tells us how to fix it

Pre-winter: Larry made sure that onions and winter transplants were planted: kale, broccoli, chard, spinach, bok choy, cabbage

Post-winter: He audited all school gardens, created a plan for the district

PATH FORWARD

- Remove damaged and dead plants
- Get ready for Spring gardening
- Distribute available transplants to working gardens
- Plant seeds: lettuce, spinach, radish, carrots
- Distribute and plant potatoes
- Replant available onions



DENTON CREEK ELEMENTARY
before, after & ready to start again



JANUARY FARM FRESH FRIDAY—KALE

CONTEST!

Stay tuned for more details! Next Fall we plan to have a contest to find the sweet potato that looks most like something else. An animal, a tree, an alien. Let your learners' imaginations run with it!

SWEET POTATO II

the sequel

It's an alien!
It's a sweet potato!
No, it's a sweet potato that looks like an alien!
IT came out of the CISD school gardens and was part of last fall's bumper crop!

CISD School Gardens are growing Sweet Potatoes & Black-Eyed Peas again this spring.

Around May, Farmer Larry will be providing sweet potato slips to the schools with active gardens.

When the learners return in August, they will have an opportunity to harvest Black-Eyed Peas (August) and Sweet Potatoes (late September).

SWEET POTATO

ALIEN



Farm Fresh Friday

in February was Grapefruit!

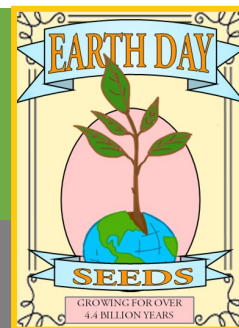
Everyone loved their roast grapefruit samples!

Child Nutrition Celebrates Earth Day

To reach out to our remote learners & include them in the School Garden program, we are sending home packets of seeds in all the Weekly Bundle Meals the week of Earth Day.

We want everyone to experience fresh, local food!

We are sending planting instructions, too



APRIL is the Texas Department of Agriculture Spring "Farm Fresh Challenge" month.

And CISD CN is always up to a challenge!

Our Farm Fresh Friday in April will be completely garden fresh and local.

We'll sample Rainbow Chard straight out of the school gardens! Beautiful and tasty, chard is a powerhouse of Vitamin K. One cup has 300% of your Recommended Daily Allowance.

Info from Farmer Larry:

Early Spring brings great gardening but also brings pest to our gardens, and I've already seen a few.

Here are a few to keep an eye out for and how to organically control them:



Aphids &
White
Flies:
Neem Oil



Cabbage loopers:
Bacillus Thuringiensis
(say that 3 times fast)
or what FL calls BT



Cut Worm:
Bacillus
Thuringiensis



Colorado
Potato Beetle:
Neem Oil

and a not so popular, but just as effective method: Hand Picking



Thrips
(prevalent
around onions):
Neem Oil



Cucumber
Beetle:
Neem Oil

REMEMBER: IT IS TEXAS LAW THAT ONLY A TRAINED, LICENSED PERSON CAN USE ANY KIND OF PEST MANAGEMENT SUBSTANCE ON SCHOOL CAMPUSES!
ALL PESTICIDE USE IS RECORDED.

YOU **MUST** WORK WITH CISD MAINTENANCE IF YOU WANT/NEED TO USE A PARTICULAR SUBSTANCE IN YOUR SCHOOL GARDEN.