

School Garden Consultants Meeting, January 16, 2019

Feedback about Trees and Schools

1. Where are the trees in the schoolyards in your schools?

- Perimeters/front of schools/in planter beds/away from children
- Inside school quad mulberries on south side of one long building
- Orchard outside so all along school perimeter (street side)
- In playgrounds, but minimum; pine trees in playground (2)
- Front landscaping, some at sides and back of playground container
- Around perimeter of the school and in parking lot (2)
- Pine trees in playground, 1 citrus and 1 apple tree currently in the garden
- Wrong places, on and over school garden beds
- On the edge or in the center of the common area
- Fruit trees, and ornamentals (citrus, apples, fig, and nectarines) (3)

2. Where could there be trees in these school yards?

- Closer to where children play – better canopy coverage
- Front entry sidewalks, more in gardens, orchards, shade for tables and outdoor classwork
- To make shady gathering area near asphalt
- Citrus trees in garden
- Somewhere where kids could sit and do lessons
- Be sure there is enough room for the mature trees, so research its adult size and needs
- Near lunch areas and where shade can be provided outside of classrooms – work areas
- Entrances to schools or common areas on school grounds (2)

3. What kind of trees could be planted?

- Larger trees, trees for shade, umbrella shapes
- Fruits, nuts, shade, natives, bay (herbs), hedger row, divide play areas, native habitat
- Non-fruiting, not messy, evergreen and needing little arborist care and cost for pruning and care
- Low shedding, few leaves, no fruit or seeds
- Small to medium sized, no invasive roots, not overly susceptible to disease and drought tolerant
- Shade trees What kinds of trees do school gardens recommend? need tree reference guide (2)
- Small fruit trees – apples, lemon, tangerine (2)

4. What tree issues do teachers and admins raise? (+ or -)

- Not enough shade, too hot, custodians complain about maintenance
- Trees under-watered and under-cared for
- Kids climbing, breaking branches, throwing fruit, eating without permission
- Minus – Vermin Positive – providing shade Minus – shade in garden
- Costly upkeep – root invasion from shallow watering
- Very little communication; new principal
- Messy trees, want them gone, vermin for fruit and seeds
- Admin feel trees are too messy and require extra cleanup which is expensive
- Building protection, roots, shreddy leaves
- Irrigation and sunlight, litter and leaf droppings

5. What steps have worked to plan or plant trees?

- Look for free trees, advocate for more trees, share benefits of trees
- Community planting days
- Incorporating in garden and garden classrooms. Memorial trees
- One teacher mentioned adding additional fruit trees to the garden
- If school landscape maintenance can water (irrigate them and trim them, clean leaves)
- Mature size and fruiting issues or not

6. What steps have not worked in your efforts to plant trees?

- Too much asphalt, hinder roots of trees, water turn off at schools, drought
- Schools that have resistant administration
- School garden has just been re-started after a few year of no oversight
- Resistance from schools, now maintenance service and irrigation system put in
- Certain varieties that become too large with invasive roots

7. What tree maintenance issues are there in your schoolyards?

- Tree weeds (eucalyptus) left to grow in wrong spaces
- Water, trimming, planting, maintenance for longevity (2)
- Non-fruiting, not messy, evergreen and needing little arborist care and cost for pruning and care
- Expensive – they are overgrown
- Garden depends on trimming trees (2)
- Trees are too much time for grounds people to clean up
- How to get trees to grow – How to keep kids off new trees
- Who maintains – prunes, fertilizes on limited budget

8. What other suggestions do you have?

- Work with district staff to advocate for their care
- Lists for size, drop, maintenance, pollen for schools' trees. Robin's list
- List of "Plant this Tree First!" A tree guide with suggestions and tree care companies that aren't too expensive (2)
- Would like to have a consultant view our garden
- Check to see what information you can use from *Florista*, the international group that plants trees
- Children Montessori school – put fruit trees, but resistance, scared of rats.
- No knowledge of native trees, need Oak for native studies
- Work on tree list for schools in various areas of county