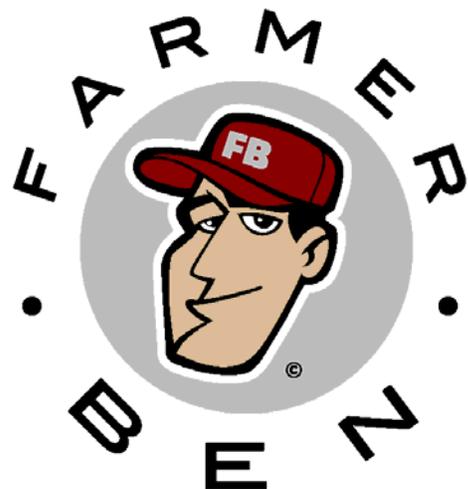


## City Green Garden

Using empty spaces to create gardens beautifies the landscape and provides food for the community. *City Green* focuses on a neighborhood without open space to garden or play. Transforming an empty lot into a community garden preserves the land by making a wise use of the space. Gardens whether for flowers or food create a pleasing landscape. Children will enjoy designing a garden for creation of green spaces and food production.



### You will need:

*City Green* by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan  
Crayons  
Assorted craft pom poms  
Glue  
Paper box tops Hand wipes or soap and water

### How to:

1. Read *City Green* by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan to a group of children.
2. Discuss how we preserve our land whether large spaces like farms or small such as the vacant lot in the story.
3. Discuss how to establish a garden for the neighborhood to enjoy. Talk about the planning involved in establishing a garden. Lead a discussion in what decisions need to be made regarding when items are planted, who weeds and waters, and who is in charge of harvest.
4. Provide each child with a box top. Box tops may be a variety of shapes and sizes. Some box tops may have colored inside lids as well.
5. Using the inside of the box top instruct children to draw a garden. This is an opportunity to design a unique garden similar to the story.
6. Encourage imagination to create the garden on a roof top or in a vacant lot. Perhaps a garden in the school yard.
7. Provide crayons for drawing and colorful craft pom poms to accent the garden harvest.
8. Allow each child and opportunity to share what crops or flowers were grown in their box top garden.

### Extension:

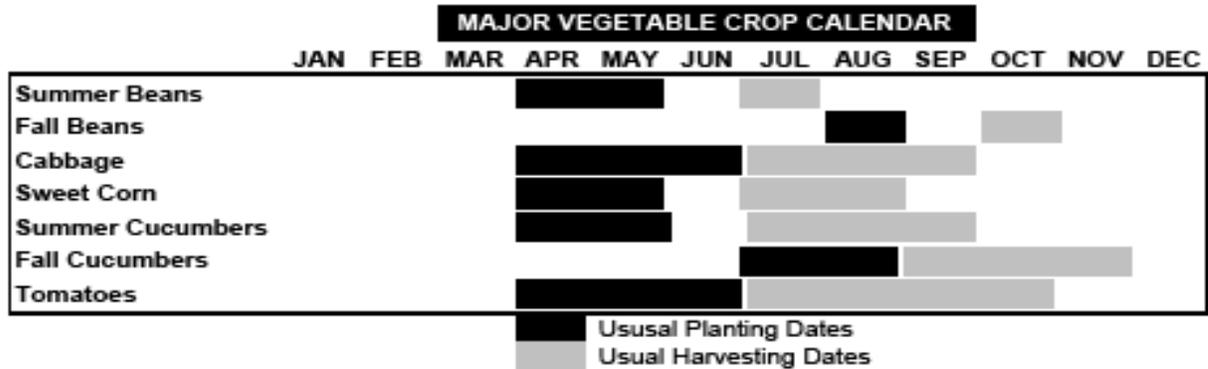
Collecting box tops can be a challenge. Be creative with the use of shoe boxes, paper boxes, event cutting the bottom off of a tissue box or splitting a cereal box in half will work. The essentials are a flat space on which to draw and a rim to serve as a border.

Farmer Ben Educational Activities developed by Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom, a program of the Virginia Farm Bureau.

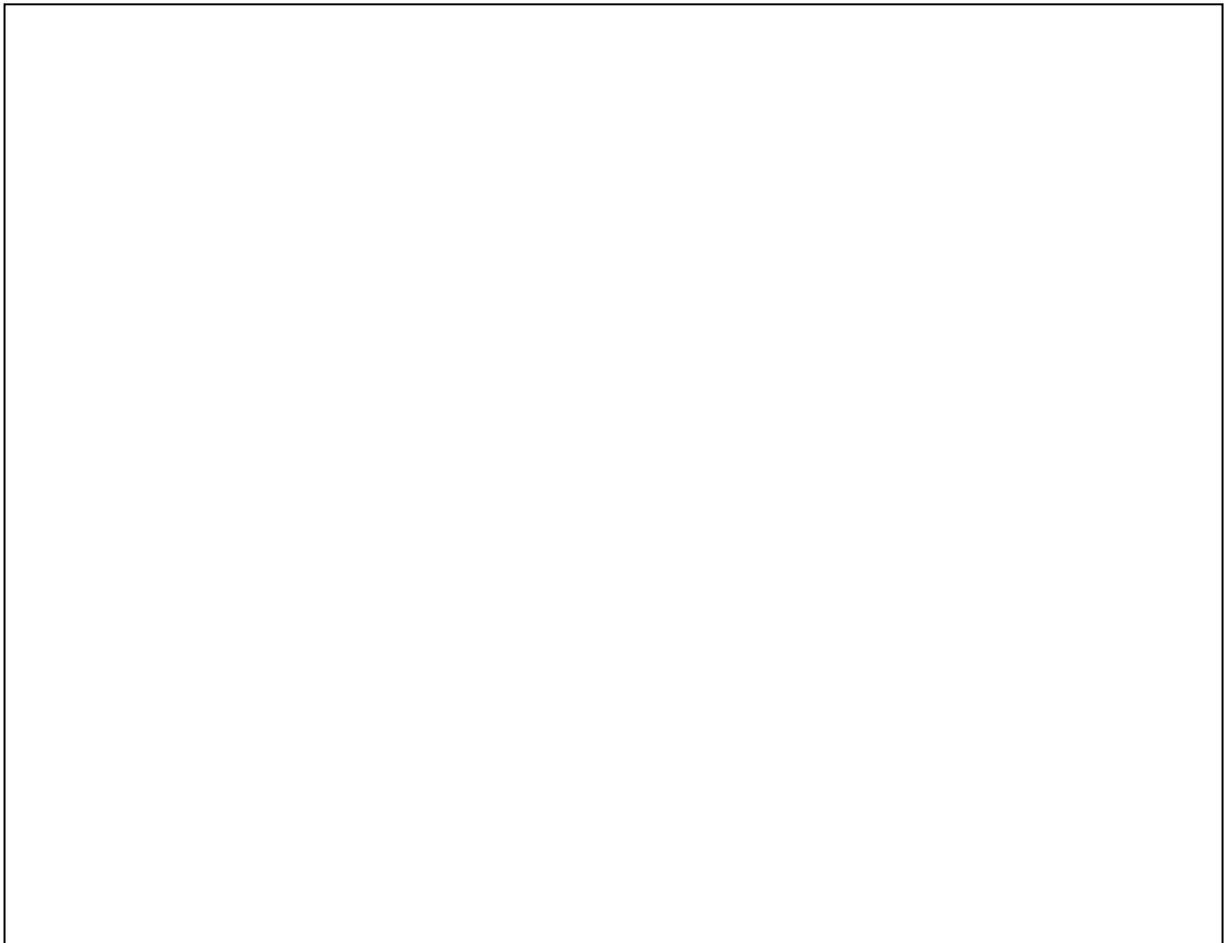


[AgInTheClass.org](http://AgInTheClass.org)

**DID YOU KNOW: One farmer grows enough food for 144 people each year. Farmers plan which crops to plant each year. They rotate the crops planted in the fields each year. Crop rotation is good for the soil.**



Use the growing season chart above to plan a garden. Illustrate your own garden in the space below.



**Farmers work hard to protect the environment by planting trees and grass along stream banks to protect rivers and streams.**

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