



Garden Grant Program FAQ

Who is the California Fertilizer Foundation (CFF)?

The California Fertilizer Foundation (CFF) was established in 1999 by the fertilizer and retail industry to address the growing disconnect between children and the origins of their food. The organization conducts public education programs, funds scholarships, and supports research related to the California fertilizer industry. CFF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit public benefit corporation.

What is the mission of the CFF?

CFF's mission is to enhance awareness and understanding of plant nutrients, agriculture, and nutrition in California.

Who administers CFF?

The Western Plant Health Association (WPHA) administers the Foundation.

What is fertilizer?

Fertilizer is any natural or manufactured material added to the soil to supply one or more plant nutrients.

What is the Garden Grant Program?

The Garden Grant Program is CFF's flagship initiative. Each year, the program awards 24 grants of \$1,200 to schools across California to either establish or maintain school gardens.

How can I apply for the Garden Grant Program?

Applications are available online at www.calfertilizer.org. Grants are awarded twice a year, with deadlines on January 15 and June 15.

What must our Garden Grant application include?

A completed Garden Grant application must not exceed 15 single-sided pages and must include:

- Completed Application Form
- Cover Letter
- Description of connections between the garden, classroom, and academic standards
- Information on plans to teach about soil quality and plant health
- Letters of support (e.g., from students, principals, volunteers, or community members)
- Itemized breakdown of how funds will be used
- Photos/diagrams, news clippings, or other supporting materials (for new gardens, include a photo/diagram of the proposed location)
- Sustainability plans for the garden

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What makes for a strong Garden Grant application?

Successful applications often demonstrate the following:

- Leaders understand fertilizer use and its application in a school setting
- Funds will enhance the understanding of the importance of healthy soil for plant growth
- Curriculum promotes critical thinking and experimentation
- Projects involving edible plants score higher than decorative garden or landscaping requests

Who reviews the applications and selects the winners? The CFF Board forms the Garden Grant Review Committee, which evaluates eligible applications and selects the winners.

When will I be notified if I've been awarded a grant? Applicants for the January 15 cycle will be notified by March 1, and applicants for the June 15 cycle will be notified by August 1.

What is the CFF's Progress Grant Award? Schools that have received a full grant during the school year may apply for the Progress Grant Award at the end of the year. For example, 2023-2024 Garden Grant winners are eligible to apply for the 2025 Progress Grant Award. One winner is selected annually to receive an additional \$1,500. Applications for the Progress Grant Award are available in November and due in January.

Can past Garden Grant winners reapply? Yes, past winners may reapply for additional funding. However, they must wait at least three years before becoming eligible for another grant.