

School Garden Workshop Series

Winter Gardening

Compiled by Dave Chal, Biodynamic Gardener

Civic Garden Center Articles

- [Adding a Low Tunnel](#)

Johnny's Selected Seeds Resources

- [Basics of Crop Protection](#)
- [Season Extension](#)

Additional Website

- [Treehugger](#)
- [Crops for Winter Growing](#)

Eliot Coleman Website & Books

- [Four Season Farm](#)
- [Winter Harvest Handbook](#)
- [Four Season Harvest book](#)

Mother Earth News Resources

- [Tips from Zone 6 Gardeners](#)
- [How to Use Low Tunnels](#)

General Tips:

By adding a low tunnel to your raised garden bed you can extend your fall growing season 3-4 weeks and protect mature plants until spring. Additionally, you can start seedlings indoors with grow lights and then transfer them outdoors in February or March to enjoy earlier harvests in the spring. The low tunnel design we suggest requires a one-time installation project. In summer the tunnel hoops can then be removed or used as a trellis or structure for adding screen to protect from herbivory. We've found that students really enjoy participating in the construction and are very proud once it's complete. For a successful experience, it's pivotal to set guidelines and assign specific tasks to students prior to beginning the project with the group. If you have a large group consider using one of the activities listed below to keep students engaged when they are not working on the installation. Having another adult for support when completing this project is also ideal for both student management and to extend the garden community!

List of winter ideas for garden clubs: discuss adaptations that help these plants survive the winter (use our [plant adaptations garden lesson](#) for ideas), inventory of your tools and identify items that need to be sharpened, repaired or replaced, create holiday cards from pressed flowers or leaves, research plants that help sustain birds and other wildlife that stay during the winter (ex. Cardinals), study cultural traditions that are focused on the winter solstice, make a "dream garden" photo collage from seed catalogues, grow greens indoors for a micro green salad, organize seeds for spring (consider dividing them into smaller packages for a fund raiser!), conduct experiments on indoor plants using different growing mediums, light levels and watering variations, cook apple sauce or stew in crockpot and enjoy as a class while talking about edible plant parts, create signs and stepping stones for the garden.