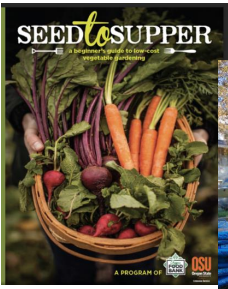




## Community Engagement & Action Projects



## Learning Objectives

We will...

- **Overview** CGBL role in MGV Program
- **Understand** the basics of Community Engagement & Action Projects
  - **Reflect** on your identity.
  - **Acknowledge** that community engagement is essential to identifying collaborative solutions.
  - **Identify** the steps you will take to complete an action project.
- **Define** the Seed to Supper program as one Community-engaged gardening project.



## What brought you to the MGV Program?

Please share why you joined the program and what keeps you motivated as a volunteer!



## Our Mission

**Our mission** is to provide educators with inspiring, research-based gardening resources and professional development to support engaging, empowering, and relevant learning experiences for children, youth, adults, and communities.

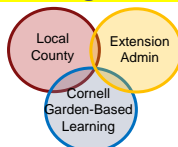
The **Master Gardener Volunteer Program**, program goal:

"We prepare volunteers to be peer educators who build relationships with community audiences to integrate local experience and research-based knowledge in planning for and initiating steps to manage gardens and landscapes with an emphasis on food security and environmental stewardship."



## Our Role at CGBL

- **Identification** – CCE Admin & County Association
- **Selection** – CCE Admin & County Association
- **Orientation** – CCE Admin & County Association
- **Training** – Garden-Based Learning & County Association
- **Utilization** – Garden-Based Learning & County Association
- **Recognition**– County Association
- **Evaluation** – Garden-Based Learning, CCE Admin & County Association



## Statewide Program Highlights

### Food Security Programs:

- Food Forest Trial Garden Program –New!
- Seed to Supper Programs
- Vegetable Varieties Trial Gardens

### Environmental Stewardship Programs:

- MGV Core Curriculum:
  - Cornell Garden-Based Learning Library
- MGV Advanced Training Curriculum – New!
  - Continuing Education on Ecological Gardening Topics
- Gardening in Warming World

### Youth Programs



# Program Highlight – Seed to Supper

NYS Seed to Supper (S2S) is a beginning gardening experience that provides novice gardeners with the tools they need to connect with other people, grow in confidence, and successfully grow a portion of their own food on a limited budget.



# Food Forest Trial Garden Program

The project focuses on educational approaches to strengthening climate adaptation and food security skills through forest gardens for Master Gardener Volunteers.

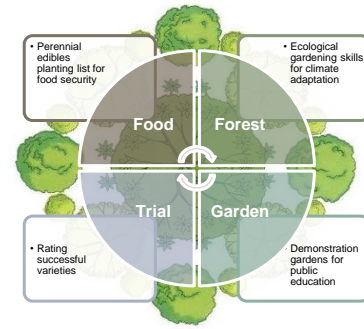


Image Credit: Midwest Permaculture, 2020



# Food Forest & Ecological Gardening Field Days

50+ CCE Educators and MGV from Statewide Teams



# Vegetable Varieties Trial Garden

**GROW & SHARE**

In this year of uncertainty and food insecurity our Master Gardeners have created the Grow & Share program. They will be delivering extra produce from their personal gardens and our trial gardens to local food pantries and food distribution centers. Join us in our efforts.

GROW

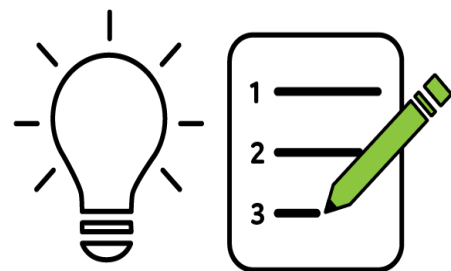
SHARE



**Action Projects:**  
Practice bringing your knowledge to the garden setting.



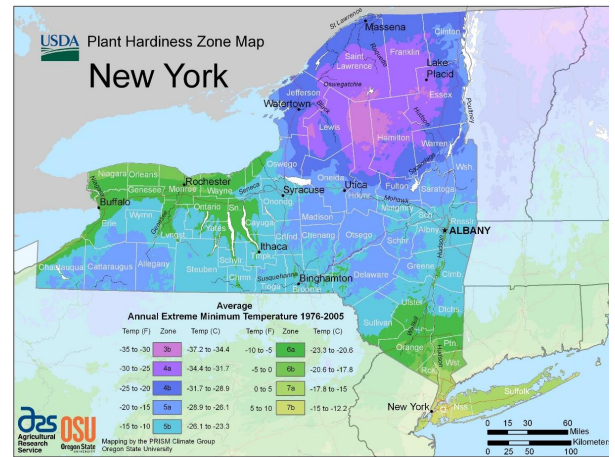
# Action Project Planning Worksheet



## Action Project Planning Worksheet - Timeline

Step	Activity/Assignment	Due Date*	Done?
1	Propose Project and Identify Your Team		
2	Assess Needs & Strengths		
3	Design Objectives		
4	Develop Delivery Strategies		
5	Implement Design		
6	Program Evaluation/Feedback		
7	Dry Run and Discussion		
8	Project Showcase		
9	Self-Review		
10	Follow-Up/Next Steps		

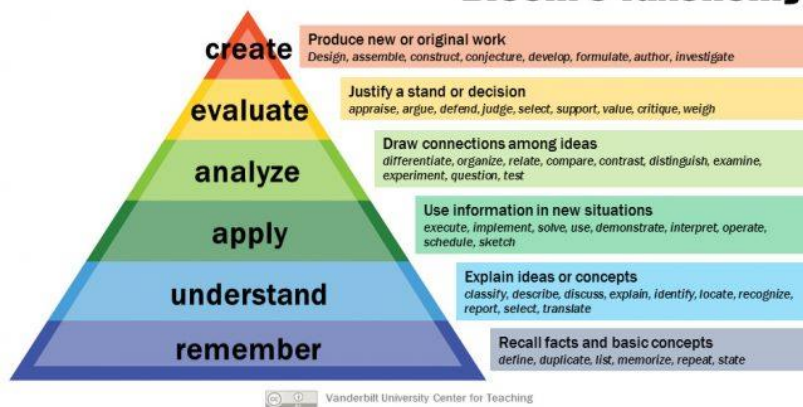
## Action Project Planning Worksheet - Audience



## Learning Objective

What do you want participants to do or know?

### Bloom's Taxonomy



## Benefits of Community-Based Gardening

1 in 3 households are growing food

- ✓ 63% increase - Millennials (18 to 34)
- ✓ 25% increase - households with children
- ✓ 38% increase - households w/incomes < \$35K

(National Gardening Association Special Report – Garden to Table)



## Garden-Based Community Engagement

- ✓ Produce healthy food locally
- ✓ Provide recreation and exercise
- ✓ Support neurodiversity
- ✓ Share knowledge and skills
- ✓ Build trust and social networks
- ✓ Buffers stressful life experiences



## Why Community-Engaged Volunteering?

Adults are motivated by:

- Social relationships.
- Improving their ability to serve community.
- Personal advancement.
- Escape/stimulation.
- Learning for the sake of learning.

Adults want to engage with:

- Lived experience that informs their knowledge of gardening and community.
- Inclusion in decision making, a sense of identity and ownership in projects.

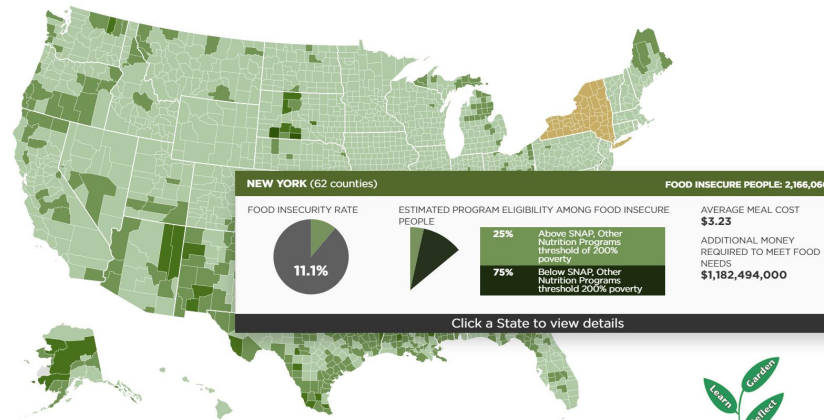


# Barriers to Gardening

- What do you think are some of the barriers to participating in gardening programs?



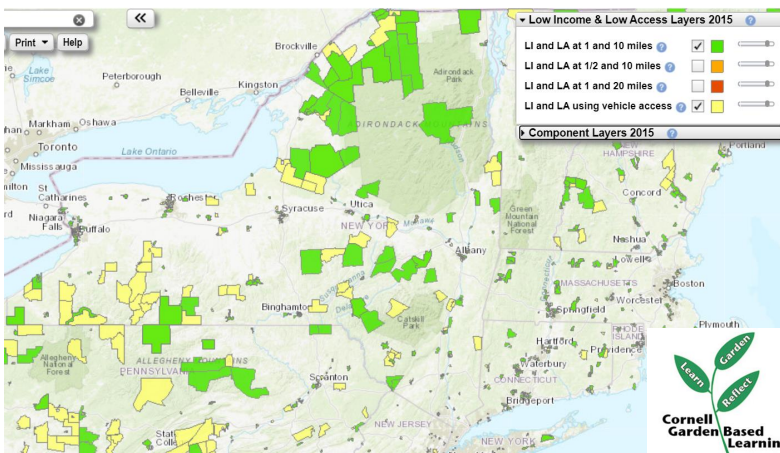
# New York State In Focus



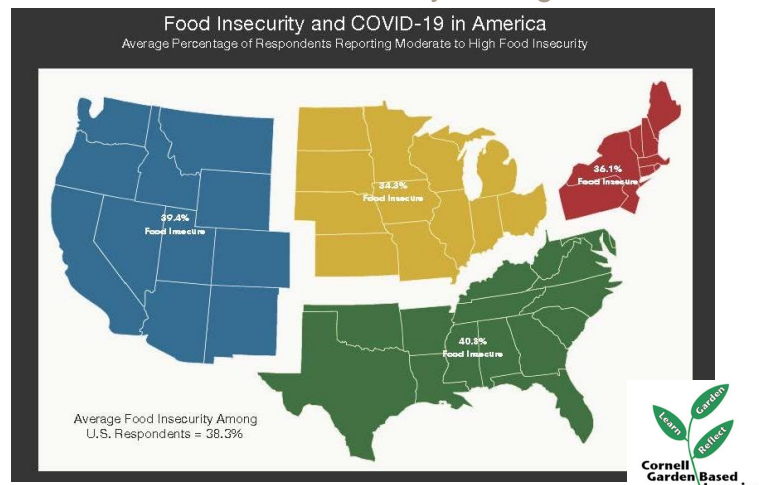
(Map the Meal Gap, Feeding America, 2020)



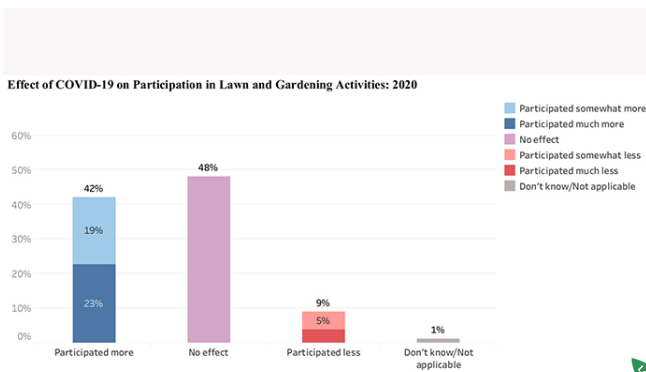
# Concentrated Poverty & Food Access Needs Align



# COVID-19 and Food Insecurity Changes



# Has the pandemic increased gardening?



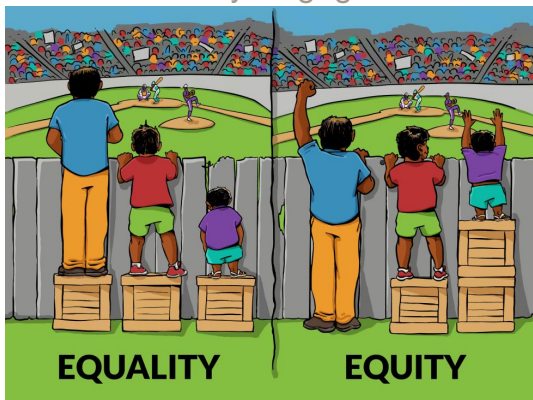
# Resources on Community-Based Gardening

“Sowing the Seeds of Success” is a guide for engaging community gardens in the steps to successfully starting and sustaining gardens.

- [Getting Started](#)
- [Planning Your Design](#)
- [Effective Community Engagement](#)
- [Effective Youth Engagement](#)
- [Engaging Volunteers](#)
- [Sustaining the Garden](#)
- [NEW: Engaging Low-Literacy Audiences](#) (pdf)



## Equitable Community Engagement & Gardens



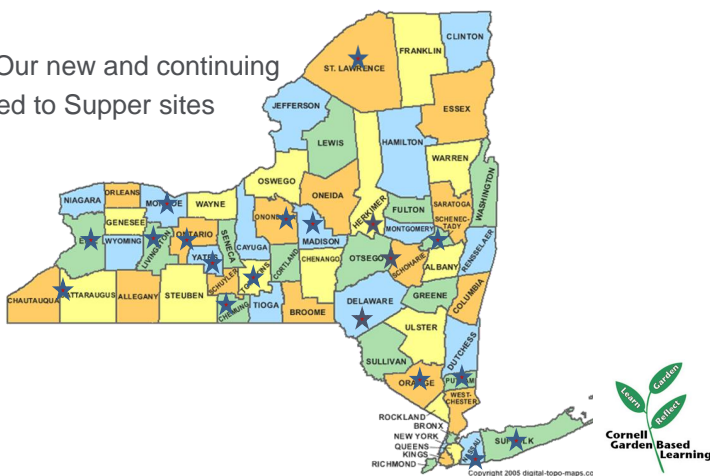
## New York State Seed to Supper

- A comprehensive beginning gardening experience focused on low-budget strategies and partnership building
- A partnership with the Oregon Food Bank and Oregon State University Extension
- Free and inclusive to participants in S2S communities!



## Where is Seed to Supper happening?

- Our new and continuing Seed to Supper sites



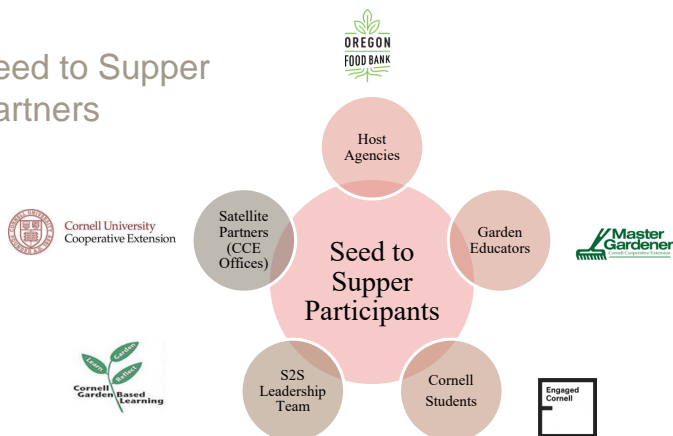
## Seed to Supper Roles and Responsibilities

This program includes:

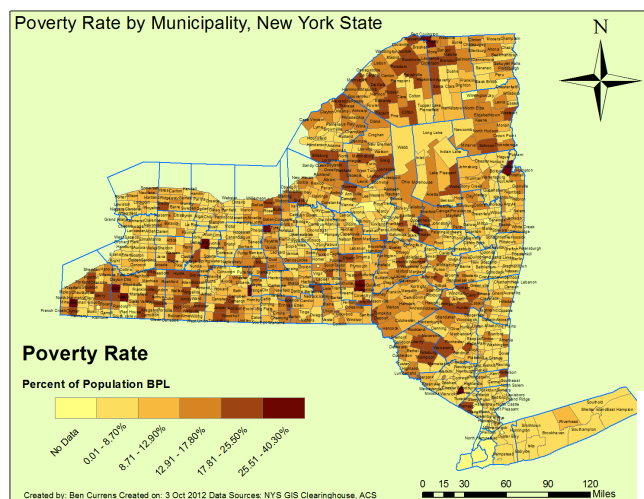
- **Program Participants**- Target audience low-income adults on a limited income
- **Garden Educators** - volunteer garden educator teams (facilitators) lead classes/experiences with program participants at community host sites
- **Satellite Partners** – Organization responsible for coordinating S2S Programs
  - Provide Garden Educator Course and program coordination – CCE County Assoc. or Food Bank
- **Host Agencies** – Secure community sites for hosting the beginning gardening course



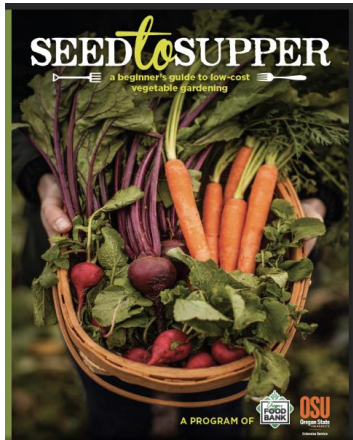
## Seed to Supper Partners



## Poverty and Hunger in New York State



## Questions?



## Learn More

Contact: Cornell Garden-Based Learning  
<http://gardening.cals.cornell.edu/>

Published: October, 2019

Author: Ashley Helmholdt

Reviewer: Marcia Eames-Sheavly



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