



# VIRTUAL EXCURSION OTWAY SOWN & GROWN



GELLIBRAND, VICTORIA

## CONNECTING JUNIOR GARDENERS PROGRAM

The Connecting Junior Gardeners Program is a four-part educational gardening resource developed by the Victorian Schools Garden Program (VSGP) for primary aged school children. The Program consists of a suite of videos, fact sheets and activities, developed to inspire and excite children to discover the joys and benefits of gardening together. As well as learning some of the foundations of gardening, children will be able to enjoy physical exercise, a connection with nature, being mindful and sharing the whole experience with their peers.

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This resource was created by Grassroots Sustainability. The Program is managed by Nursery and Garden Industry Victoria.



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# Teacher Resource

## INTRODUCTION

Otway Sown & Grown is a Micro Farm located in the heart of the Otways, Victoria. The property is about 100 metres from the centre of the small township of Gellibrand. The owners, John and Jo, live on the 2.5-acre property that grows a range of seasonal vegetables year-round. They use a no-dig system and all of their produce is organically grown. They sell their produce direct to the public, from both their farm gate and a stall at the local farmers' markets.

## Year 3 - Year 6

THERE ARE TWO PARTS TO THIS ACTIVITY:

1. Individual research - students are to gain some background information on types of gardens and growing specific foods.
2. Design a 'Micro Farm' - using information gained from the class, students are to design their own Micro Farm.

## INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH TOPICS

### GROUP RESEARCH

Students are to research a method or style of growing specific foods. Different techniques may include:

- |                               |                    |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| - In-ground vegetable gardens | - Raised beds      |
| - Broad acre-farming          | - Wicking beds     |
| - Orchards                    | - Aquaponics       |
| - Greenhouses/grow tunnels    | - Hydroponics      |
| - Herb gardens                | - Mushroom tunnels |
| - Food forests                |                    |

### LEADING QUESTIONS

- What conditions does this method require?
- How much space does it require?
- What materials does it require?
- How expensive is it to set up?
- Are there ongoing expenses/maintenance?
- Does it require professionals to set it up?
- Can I grow food all year round?
- What types of food can I grow?
- Am I limited in what I can grow?
- What are the benefits?
- What are the challenges?
- Does it use lots of water?

## INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

Students are to research a specific fruit, vegetable or herb. Ensure each student has a different one.

## LEADING QUESTIONS

- What conditions does it grow in? (sun/shade, soil type, etc)
- What climate does it prefer? (temperate, tropical etc)
- What season does it prefer? (Summer, Winter, etc)
- Is it perennial or annual?
- Does it have a preferred growing method?
- Can I propagate it myself?
- Can I harvest its seeds?
- How much water does it require?
- Does it grow well with other things?
- Is it easily affected by pests or diseases?
- How much does it typically sell for?

## DESIGN A MICRO FARM

Using information gained from the class research, students are to design their own Micro Farm to be built on the school grounds:

- Each student is to get a map of the school ground.
- As a class walk around the school ground. Identify:
  - Where receives adequate sunlight
  - Areas that are shaded
  - Unused spaces
  - Where water is accessible – tanks taps, drainage points
  - Large open areas
  - Areas protected from the wind
- Using all information gathered, each student is to come up with their own individual design.

