



### Resource 1: Background information on community gardens

Community gardens are an extremely valuable resource in areas with high poverty rates and in cities where most housing is in apartment blocks. These communally worked gardens provide opportunities for school children, the unemployed and disadvantaged groups to engage in work that not only connects them to the community and the production of their own food but also helps them to build confidence and self-esteem.

Across the world, approximately 700 million people are fed from urban farms or community gardens. While food production is central to many community and allotment gardens, not all have vegetables as a main focus. Restoration of natural areas and native plant gardens are also popular, as are gardens that are designed mainly for community gathering and interaction.

### Case study 1: Bronx Green-Up project



Harvesting courgettes ©The New York Botanical Garden



Learning tool skills©The New York Botanical Garden

# Cultivating peace



## Classroom resources

A tranquil  
space  
©The New York  
Botanical Garden



Digging out tree roots ©The New York Botanical Garden

## Cultivating peace



## Classroom resources

**Guerrilla gardening** is gardening on another person's land without permission. It encompasses a very diverse range of people and motivations, from the enthusiastic gardener who spills over their legal boundaries to the highly political gardener who seeks to provoke change through direct action. Guerrilla gardening has implications for land rights and land reform. The land concerned has usually been abandoned or neglected by its legal owner. Guerrilla gardeners believe that it is morally right to reclaim land from perceived neglect or misuse and assign a new purpose to it. Some guerrilla gardeners carry out their actions at night in relative secrecy, e.g. sowing and tending a new vegetable patch or flower garden; others garden during the day in order to be seen by their community.

### Case study 2: Guerrilla gardening



Guerrilla gardeners planting vegetables in downtown Calgary.

*By Grant Neufeld*

Vertical gardens in the Williamsburg Waterfront Park, New York, US.

*By kellan*





### Case study 3: Community gardens



Culpeper Community Garden 'Best Communal Garden in London', awarded by London in Bloom, 2003.  
*©Culpeper Community Garden, Islington, London*

Community gardens are largely maintained by volunteers.

*©Culpeper Community Garden, Islington, London*



School Visits to Culpeper Community Garden.

*©Culpeper Community Garden, Islington, London*



### Resource 2:

Surkes, S. (2011) *Building bridges over divided communities: the work of the Jerusalem Botanical Gardens*, Roots 8,1, pp.24-26.

The issue is available online at:

[http://www.bgci.org/files/Worldwide/Education/Roots\\_PDFs/Roots%208.1.pdf](http://www.bgci.org/files/Worldwide/Education/Roots_PDFs/Roots%208.1.pdf)

### Resource 3: Background information on the Horticulture Programme at the San Francisco County Jail

In 1983 a San Francisco prison counsellor named Catherine Sneed read John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*. Inspired by the way the families in the novel found hope through their connectedness to the land, she arranged to restore a derelict farm that had been part of the prison. She engaged the help of some of the prisoners, and together they began to clear away years of weeds and debris. This was the beginning of the Horticulture Program at the San Francisco County Jail. The produce that is grown at the jail is donated to places with the greatest need, such as food banks, housing projects and centres for senior citizens. The prisoners who work in the garden take great pride in their ability to contribute to society, and along with the skills they learn, they also find out how to work co-operatively.

In Britain there is stiff competition for the much-coveted Windlesham Trophy, awarded by the Royal Horticultural Society each year to the prison with the best garden. Job preparation and contributing to society aren't the only benefits to prison gardening projects. Being in close touch with nature can be healing in itself: studies have shown that prisoners who occupy cells with a view of trees are less violent than those who have no such outlook.

## Cultivating peace



## Classroom resources

### Web links to download the pictures included in 'Cultivating peace' lesson resources:

#### Images of The Bronx Green up project

[http://www.nybg.org/green\\_up/images.php](http://www.nybg.org/green_up/images.php)

#### Guerrilla gardening

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Guerrilla\\_gardening.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Guerrilla_gardening.jpg)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guerrilla\\_gardening](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guerrilla_gardening)

#### Vertical gardens in the Williamsburg Waterfront Park

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/kellan/4626699490/>

#### Guerrilla gardening blog

<http://www.guerrillagardening.org/>

#### Culpeper Community Garden

<http://www.culpeper.org.uk/index.cfm>

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