

Fundraising - making profits on produce



Gardens cost money. This factsheet provides ways students and school community members at Pick of the Crop schools are able sustain their gardens and kitchens through fundraising.

First step

Before undertaking any fundraising activities, you may need to check with your school's administration or leadership teams about the procedures for handling cash and receiving card payments.

It can be useful for schools to be ready with facts and figures such as the results of the School Opinion Survey and the costs of garden line items. You can then use this data for submissions too.

How to raise funds

Selling excess produce: If you are lucky enough to have a glut from the garden or from generous home growers, you can simply sell the fruit and veg to staff and families.

- Mary Valley State College occasionally does this at pick up and drop off.
- Parke State School has held termly seedling sales.
- Some schools have a display wagon on wheels to sell produce.

Remember to promote produce sales on your school Facebook page.

Watch a short video here about how Gympie South State School Hands-on-Learning students and garden club do this:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVhFcdjvKfE>

"Parents love that it's all organic. People scramble to get in first before it's sold out." Ina, Gympie South State School Pick of the Crop School Champion.

Value adding for markets: Some schools like Gympie Special School and Kin Kin State School hold stalls at local monthly community markets. Items for sale include:

- seed packets (harvested, counted, labelled and decorated by students)
- relishes
- spice blends.

Kin Kin State School has its own T-shirt and tote bags, featuring a design by an artistic parent.



Sunshine Beach State School and Kenilworth State Community College students have grown pots of microgreens, marketed and sold them in local supermarkets. More information on this activity can be found [online](#).



Other plants: To raise money and make room for food plants, Wolvi State School is selling off 'dig your own' ornamental plants.

Cookbooks: Many schools produce recipe books from student cooking classes. North Arm State School has stepped up, with community volunteers helping with layouts and editing. They now have a professional, full-colour, bound book available for purchase through the school office and some local stores.

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P&C or Student Council dedicated funds: A number of schools have directed funds from other sources into the kitchen garden e.g. annual pie drives. Some school examples include:

- Funds generated by a conference hosted by Beerwah State School in 2024 going towards kitchen equipment (the Kitchen Specialist catered the event).
- At North Arm State School, parents pay an annual fee for the kitchen garden program, recognising the value the community places on it.
- At Gympie Central State School and Brightwater State School, Student Councils have purchased garden items using money raised.

The Annual Mango Fundraiser: Some Pick of the Crop schools have joined the [Mango Fundraiser](#)



Image: Credited to the Mango Fundraiser site.

You can register in Term 3 and see the website for more details.

Containers for Change: Many schools take part in this program by recycling bottles and cans from their community. For example, Dagun State School has bins in the parking bay and part of Thursday morning's kitchen garden class involves collecting, separating and storing the containers.

Working with local outlets: Local chain stores may run monthly fundraising activities, which could benefit your school. Simply nominate your school garden as the beneficiary of a two- or three-way split of the monthly fund, as voted for by their customers.

Education sessions for adults: Kin Kin State School has drawn on local experts to provide workshops for adults, charging an attendance fee. Topics have included soils and composting, cheese making.

Crowd funding platforms: [Ready Fund Grow](#) is a school-garden specific platform and may be suitable for your school.

Have you got your own success story for fundraising? We'd love to hear about it on the Facebook Closed Group page, or by contacting your Pick of the Crop Regional Coordinator.

More information on finding and applying for grants is available on a separate factsheet [online](#).



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