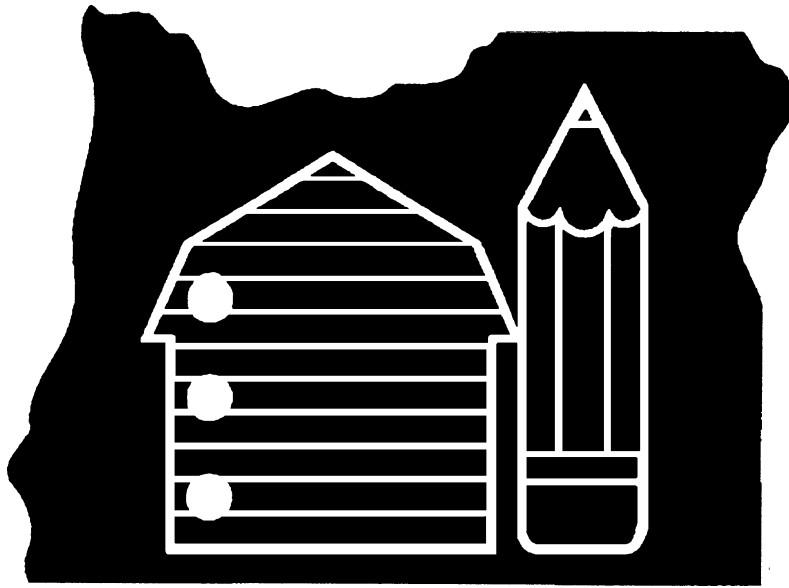


# *Oregon*

## **Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation**



## **Teacher Newsletter**

Welcome to Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC). This is the premier issue of our new teacher newsletter. The newsletter will be available three times per year, in September, January, and April.

**Our Mission Statement:**

*“We are dedicated to helping children grow in their knowledge of agriculture, the environment, and natural resources for the benefit of Oregonians today and in the future.”*

## *Programs Developed for Educators*

### **AITC Free-Loan Library**

Order exciting curriculum guides, lesson plans, videos, and textbooks to help you incorporate agriculture and natural resources into your existing curriculum in English, math, science, social sciences, and the arts. Your only cost is the return mailing.

### **Ambassadors**

AITC would like to have an Ambassador in every school in Oregon. You can be an Ambassador! You will be the first to work with our new materials, have personal contact with AITC, invitations to Task Force meetings and special events. You will act as a liaison between AITC and your school. Ambassadors distribute AITC curriculum materials to other teachers at their school and help them be more effective with the resources available.

### **Teacher Review Panels**

AITC is building panels of teachers to help review and approve the materials before they are used in the classroom. The age groups are K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Would you be interested in helping build our program and be the first to review the materials?

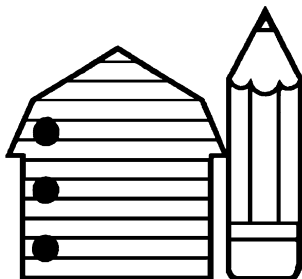
### **Summer Agriculture Institute**

A dynamic, educational, fun packed week of learning about our nation's top employer, Agriculture. Get three credits and learn how Agriculture can be used as a theme for teaching to enhance achievement of Educational Reform Standards. Agriculture makes a great context for helping your curriculum come to life. If you are interested in learning more about this program, contact Beth Knoble at (503) 399-1701. Classes are offered at Oregon State University and Eastern Oregon University.

### **Web Site**

Visit our web site at <http://AITC.orst.edu>. We have teacher resources listed and will have our resource library on-line by this fall. There are activities for students, places to visit and several web sites for students and teachers. Our newsletter will also be available on-line.

The purpose of Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) is to help young people gain a better understanding of agriculture, the source of our food and fiber and its impact on our economy and our daily life. Agriculture in the Classroom is a national organization. Our goal is to provide curriculum, reference materials and teaching aides to teachers in K-12 in order to help them use agriculture and natural resources for teaching their current subject matter. AITC uses an integrated learning approach, with concepts taught in a single activity extending into several different subject areas. In addition, it emphasized hands-on learning for students.



*For more information on these programs,  
call AITC at (541) 737-8629 or send an  
E-mail to [AITC@orst.edu](mailto:AITC@orst.edu).*

## ***About Millennium Green***

Millennium Green Council

Cities and communities are losing trees, forests, and open green spaces as never before due to rapid and often poorly planned development. Millennium Green celebrates environmental literacy and action at the local community and neighborhood level. We all need to understand and value the important contributions that trees, forests, and green spaces make to our daily lives.

Millennium Green is a National project of the White House Millennium Council led by the Department of Agriculture in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Energy, Department of Transportation, Department of Interior, Department of Education, and Department of Justice. The project also includes private organizations, companies, and individuals from all across the Nation.

Millennium Green goals are: For every person to plant and/or adopt a tree or a garden for the new millennium; for every community to identify and protect a heritage tree, grove, or natural wonder or treasure of special significance for the new millennium.

Working in our back yards and in our communities, we can each do our part to nurture and care for these precious resources. Trees, forests, and green spaces filter polluted runoff, making our water safer and cleaner. Trees clean the air of carbon dioxide and harmful particles and return oxygen, helping us all to breathe easier.

Trees help pay our “carbon debt” by absorbing carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, slowing global climate change. Trees, forests, and green spaces shelter and nourish wildlife from bears to bald eagles, and salmon to salamanders. Trees and green spaces save us money, reducing the cost of controlling storm-water and naturally cooling overheated cities and homes in the summer.

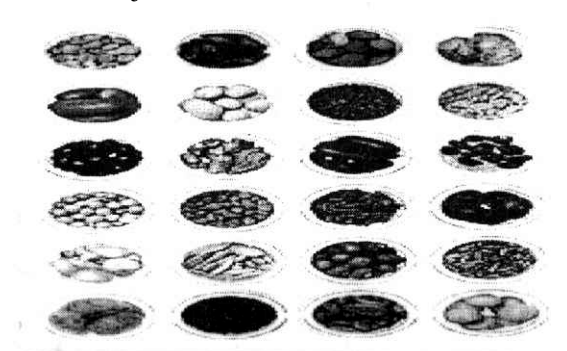
Every tree, grove, garden or green space we plant and care for makes a difference. There is no better time than the new millennium to become involved and set the stewardship example for generations to come.

Reprinted from Agriculture in the Classroom USDA Notes, Spring 2000.

## **Free Seeds for School Millennium Gardens**

America the Beautiful

Now that the new millennium is well underway, “America the Beautiful Fund” has \$1,000,000 worth of free vegetable and flower seeds available to school and volunteer groups to plant a Millennium Garden as part of the Millennium Green Project.



Schools across the country have found that planting a garden is a great educational experience for all age groups. School gardens are making a difference:

- Students at Palmetto Elementary School in South Miami, Florida, have planted a teaching garden at their school where they learn about food production and marketing by running their own farmer’s market;
- At the High School for Environmental Studies in New York City, students have planted a rooftop garden where they grow fresh greens and specialty crops to sell to Manhattan restaurants; and
- The Farm to School Education Program in Hartford, Connecticut uses “America the Beautiful Fund” seeds to grow fresh produce at nearby Halcomb Farm, for school lunches and to teach children about nutrition, the environment, and social and economic aspects of food production.

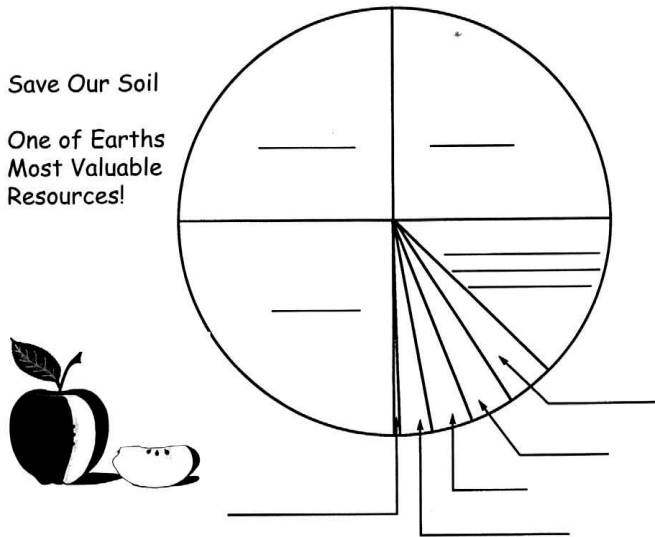
If you would like to receive a grant of free seeds for an Agriculture in the Classroom project, the application may be found on the Internet at [www.america-the-beautiful.org](http://www.america-the-beautiful.org), or send a self addressed stamped envelop to “America the Beautiful Fund” 1730 K Street, N.W., Suite 1902, Washington, D.C. 20006.

# How the Earth's Land is used

## Materials

- Large apple
- Knife
- Cutting Board

Imaging the apple is planet earth. Ask your students to fill in the chart below while you explain the land resources of earth. Cut the apple in quarters. 75% of the Earth's surface is covered with water. Only 25% of the Earth is our land area. Take this quarter and cut it in half, now you have two 1/8 sections of land. One-eighth of our land is not suitable for producing food; this is the deserts, swamps, mountains and the Arctic and Antarctic regions. The other 1/8th represents land where man can live. Slice this 1/8<sup>th</sup> section lengthwise into four equal parts. Now you have four 1/32<sup>nd</sup> of an apple. The first section represents the areas of the world, which have rocky soil that is too poor for any type of food production. The next section represents land too wet for food production. The last section represents the area of the world developed by man. Carefully peel the last 1/32<sup>nd</sup> section. This small bit of peeling represents all the soil of our earth, which humans depend upon for food production. (Adapted from Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom)



**Yes!** I would like to receive more information about:

- Library/Curriculum Guides
- Summer Agriculture Institute
- Becoming an Ambassador
- Reviewing Curriculum
- Add me to the Newsletter Mailing List

Name \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Mail to:

Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation  
105 Ballard Extension Hall  
Corvallis, OR 97331

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_