

## PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS – Lesson 6

LiveWell Kids– 2025-26

*Every student plants at least one seed while maintaining a healthy, well-spaced garden.*

### BED LAYOUT OVERVIEW – see diagram

#### Back Row (North or East):

- 3 × 3 corn block in center of row (9 plants in 3 rows that span across the back and middle rows)
- 2 sunflowers on the left side of corn block, back row only
- 2 sunflowers on the right side of corn block, back row only

#### Middle Row:

- 2 tomato plants (on the left side of the corn block)
- 2 serrano plants (on the left side of the corn block)
- 1 Pumpkin OR Watermelon (on the right side of the corn block)

#### Front Row (South or West):

- Alternating basil and marigold

### PLANTING FLOW

#### Step 1 – Corn – Center of Back and Middle Rows

- Select 9 students to plant:
  - 1 corn seed each
  - Plant in a 3 × 3 square block in the center of the back/middle rows (NOT in one long row)

#### Step 2 – Sunflowers – Sides of Back Row

- Select 4 students to plant:
  - 1 sunflower seed each
  - Back row (left and right sides of the corn block, back row only)

#### Step 3 – Tomato + Serrano – Left Side of Middle Row

- Select 6 students to plant:
  - Tomato (2 spots – on the left of the corn block, in front of the sunflowers):
    - 3 students per spot with one seed each
    - In each spot, plant 3 seeds close together
  - Serrano (2 spots – next to the tomato plants):
    - 3 students per spot with one seed each
    - In each spot, plant 3 seeds close together

#### Step 4 – Vine Crop – Right Side of Middle Row

- Select 2–3 students to plant:
  - Pumpkin **OR** Watermelon - there is just one choice per bag (1 spot – on the right of the corn block, in front of the sunflowers):

- 2-3 students, 1 seed each (plant all seeds close together - the strongest will stay while the others will be thinned).

Step 5 – Basil + Marigold – Front Row

- All remaining students plant:
  - Basil (½ teaspoon per class ≈ 15–20 seeds)
  - Marigold (½ teaspoon per class ≈ 10–20 seeds)
- Plant alternately along the whole front row of the box.
- Have students form two lines in front of the garden bed.
- Give each student a seed and instruct them to cover it with their other hand to avoid dropping it.
- Invite students to approach the bed two at a time and use the ‘row-planting guide’ tool to plant their seeds in a straight line.
- Instruct them to poke a small hole based on their measured depth, place the seed inside, and gently cover it with soil. Remind them to keep the soil loose and not press it down.
- Use a popsicle stick to mark the location of the most recently planted seed. As each new student plants, they will move the popsicle stick to mark their own spot, helping maintain even spacing.

**STUDENT COUNT GUIDE (QUICK REFERENCE):**

Class Size	Corn	Sunflower	Tomato	Serrano	Vine	Remaining (Basil/Marigold)
20 students	9	4	4–6	4–6	2–3	~5–7
25 students	9	4	4–6	4–6	2–3	~10–12
30 students	9	4	4–6	4–6	2–3	~15–17
35 students	9	4	4–6	4–6	2–3	~20+

IMPORTANT RULES

- Only **ONE** vine crop per bed
- Do not plant extra corn
- Do not plant extra tomatoes or peppers
- Keep corn in a square (not a row)
- Use basil and marigold for remaining students

SIMPLE TEACHING SCRIPT

“Some plants need more space, so only a few of those get planted. The rest will be filled in with herbs and flowers.”

END GOAL

By August, the bed will have:

- Tall corn and sunflowers in back.
- Tomatoes and peppers on the left side.
- A pumpkin **OR** watermelon vine, on the right side.
- Flowers and herbs along the front.