



# SEED SHARING PILOT

## APPLICATION GUIDELINES



### INTRODUCTION

Since 2015, hundreds of Go Wild Grant projects have proven the valuable role that schools play in fighting climate change and biodiversity loss. The need for nature-based solutions to these crises has never been greater. One simple and effective solution is the creation of native plant gardens. These gardens help to create habitat, restore wildlife and strengthen climate resilience. Yet, one of the biggest barriers for Canadians to participate in this solution is the limited access to native plants.

Schools can be the solution to this barrier. A single school's native plant garden has the power to seed many more native plant gardens and habitats in their community, ultimately creating a network of seed-sharing schools to inspire change across Canada for nature and for people.

This special two-year pilot is an opportunity for schools to lead this solution. Pilot schools will create habitat for wildlife with a native plant garden. They will grow, collect and share native plant seeds from their gardens with other schools, leading to even more habitat created in their local community. Results from the pilot will inform a new WWF activity that will be offered through our Living Planet@School program. Pilot schools will receive a grant of \$1,500 to support their participation.

WWF-Canada will support participating schools with workshops and resources for selecting native plants and seeds, as well as preparing, planting and harvesting seeds.

### PROJECT FOCUS

This two-year pilot project will test a model to inspire and support schools in creating native plant seed gardens. These gardens will serve as important wildlife habitat and sources of native seeds to create even more habitat gardens in the surrounding community.

- **2025-2026 school year: Grow with WWF-Canada**  
In the first year, participating schools will create a native seed garden following a how-to guide from WWF-Canada. Students will learn how to care for seeds, plant habitat and observe its growth. This garden bed will be a great place for student and teacher inquiry.
- **2026-2027 school year: Share with others**  
In the second year, once the plants have matured, the students will harvest, clean and package the seeds. These seeds will then be shared with neighboring schools or community to increase the accessibility of native plants for others and create a network of school-based native seed gardens across Canada that are helping to restore habitat.

The schools will be mentored by WWF-Canada through online workshops and resources like [How to start a seed garden](#) and [How seed orchards fill a growing need for native plants](#).

After two years, schools are encouraged to continue nurturing their gardens and sharing seeds with others and can further expand their seed gardens as outdoor classrooms, seed libraries and biodiversity hubs, fostering hands-on learning and habitat restoration beyond the pilot project period.

## ELIGIBILITY

- Only grade K-12 schools, preschools and daycare centers in Canada are eligible to apply.
- The seed garden must be created within the school grounds during spring 2026.
- This is a minimum two-year commitment from January 2026 to June 2027.
- The applicants must not be associated with a for-profit entity.

## APPLICATION

- Applications must be submitted via the online application form by October 24, 2025 at [schools.wwf.ca](https://schools.wwf.ca).
- Applications must be completed by an educator, administrator or school employee. Students can connect with their teacher and apply together.
- Applications that fail to adhere to the guidelines will not be considered.

## COMMITMENTS FROM SELECTED SCHOOLS

If selected for funding, you agree to the following:

1. **Establish a seed-sharing garden** in a 12-square meter raised garden bed using locally sourced native plants.
  - **Plan:** Map the growing space indicating sun, shade and water access, and select appropriate seed-bearing plants native to your area.
  - **Prepare and plant:** Acquire seeds and plants and take steps during winter to promote seed germination. In the spring, prepare the soil, install raised beds and plant native plants and seedlings.
  - **Manage and protect:** Weed, water, replace dead plants.
  - **Harvest seeds.**
2. **Share seeds with neighboring schools and communities.**

Share stories, information, photographs and possibly videos from your project. *Funded projects may be showcased by WWF-Canada on various communications channels, where relevant.* Submit an interim report by June 2026 and a final report by June 2027. Plan for long term sustainability of the project, including maintenance of the habitat garden and future seed collection and sharing.

## IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

This pilot will be implemented for two years in coordination with WWF-Canada. Participating schools will receive guidance through online workshops and resources. Below is a broad implementation plan:

Time/Season	Activities
Fall 2025	Apply to participate.
Winter — early spring 2026	Plan your garden and collect your supplies. Contact nurseries and order native plants and seeds. Prepare the seeds to germinate and start growing.
Spring 2026	Take care of seedlings. Install the raised beds. Plant native plants and seedlings. Conduct biodiversity observations (record the species of insects, birds and other animals that you observe in the garden). Submit the interim report (end of June)
Summer 2026	Maintain the native plant garden.
Fall 2026	Harvest and clean the seeds. Package and share seeds with other schools and community members. Winterize your garden.
Winter 2027	Prepare your garden for spring. Prepare the seeds saved from harvest to germinate.
Spring 2027	Maintain the native plant garden. Submit final report.

**At the end of the pilot, schools are encouraged to continue their important efforts of growing and sharing native plant seeds with their networks, restoring even more habitat in their communities.**

## TIMELINES

- **Last date for applications: October 24, 2025**
- Recipients will be notified in December 2025. Only projects selected for funding will be contacted.
- Successful applicants will have until **June 26, 2027**, to complete the project and reporting requirements.

## GRANT OVERVIEW

- **Duration:** Two years
- **Grant value:** \$1,500
- **Eligible costs:** Materials and services associated with the activity. This could include (but is not limited to):
  - Native plants and seeds = estimated \$400-\$500
  - Site preparation (potting soil, containers or materials for building raised beds, signs, labels, etc.) = estimated \$600-\$700
  - Equipment and maintenance costs needed to complete the project = estimated \$50-\$100
  - Materials and supplies for seed sharing = estimated \$100-\$200
- **Non-eligible costs:** Staff salaries or any other fees that are not directly related to the proposed activity.

## ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

All applications will be assessed by WWF-Canada staff using the following criteria:

- **Implementation plan:** Is the implementation plan achievable?
- **Location of the school:** We will consider regional diversity across schools and each school's suitability for a native plant seed garden.
- **Sustainability and maintenance:** Ability and commitment of the school to maintain the garden during the two-year grant period. Clear plan for summer maintenance to ensure continuity.
- **Community and student involvement:** Ability to involve students from different classrooms in the school. Plan for connecting with other schools and community for seed sharing.
- **Implementation plan:** Feasibility of the implementation plan.

*Please note that there are limited slots available. However, schools not selected for a grant will be offered alternative ways to participate in the pilot if interested.*

## PERMITS, INSURANCE AND LIABILITY WAIVERS

Successful applicants are responsible for identifying and obtaining any permits, licenses or other approvals required to begin and/or complete the project. Successful applicants are also required to obtain and/or maintain adequate insurance coverage and implement participant liability waiver agreements in respect of all risks relating to the funded project.

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

This call for proposals is not intended to be a formal legally binding procurement process. WWF-Canada reserves the right to seek clarification and supplementary information from any applicant. WWF-Canada may elect not to consider a proposal containing misrepresentations or any inaccurate, misleading or incomplete information. Once a project proposal has been submitted, it cannot be modified or changed.

## QUESTIONS?

For questions regarding Go Wild Grants, please email [gowild@wwfcanada.org](mailto:gowild@wwfcanada.org) or call us at 1-800-26-PANDA (72632).