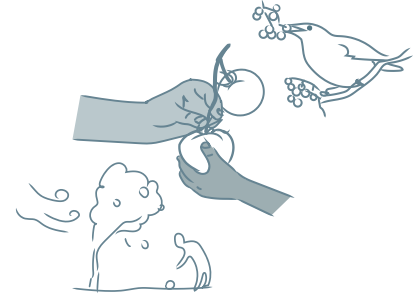


Garden Task

Gathering

Gathering is a critical task in the garden because it connects us to culture, community, elder knowledge, and community history. Gathering is a time to harvest, preserve and enjoy the gifts from the garden. It is also a time of giving back, by sharing and celebrating those gifts with others.



Connections to Science Content

What do we need to know in order to do the garden task?

Plant Life Cycle: being able to identify a plant and the growing pattern will help to determine if the plant is ready to harvest and how to harvest it.

- For example, knowing where new growth happens on a kale plant can help me determine which leaves to select and how to harvest without damaging the plant.

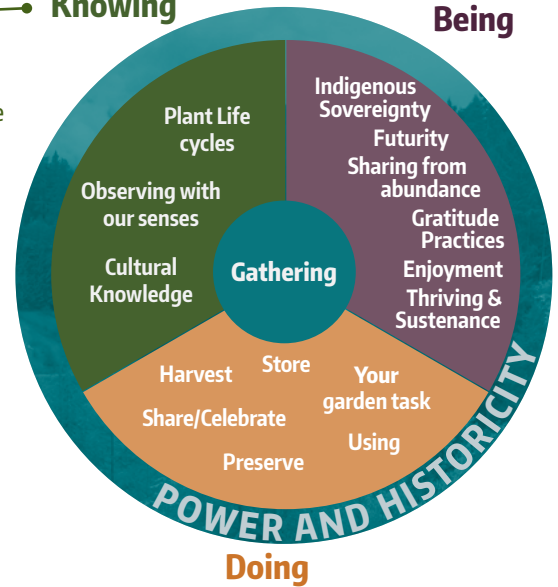
Cultural Knowledge: stories and cultural knowledge through generations of observation and doing help us know what to do with our garden products, practices, and spaces.

Observing with our senses: being able to trust instincts and senses to determine if a plant is ready to harvest.

- For example, I use my sense of touch to see if the fruit comes off easily from the plant. I can observe tops of root crops poking through soil, potato plant leaves dying back, color/dryness of husks, etc.

Knowing

Being



Garden Methods

What are methods we use to do this garden task?

Harvest

- Leaves and flowers: using knife, scissors, or hands
- Fruits and seeds: using pruners, fruit picker poles, scissors, hands.
- Roots: shovel or fork to dig
- Other plant parts: tapping trees for sap
- Showing gratitude to what is being harvested

Store

- Wash produce and refrigerate
- Place herbs or flowers in vase of water
- Put unripe vegetables on the counter to ripen, or store in a root cellar.

Preserve

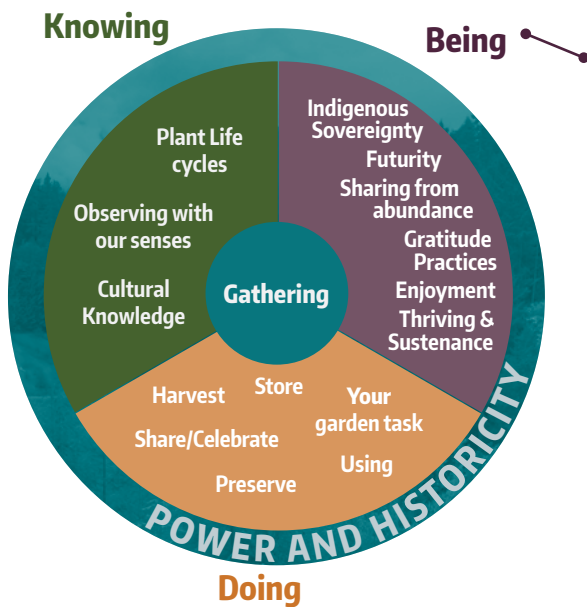
- Water bath & pressure canning
- Freezing
- Drying/Dehydrating
- Fermenting
- Mix seasonal healing tinctures

Use

- Make a wreath or collect plants for decoration
- Press apples for cider
- Make a meal

Share/Celebrate

- Garden stories
- Gratitude practices
- Sharing excess food with friends and community
- Sharing meals, or recipies with loved ones
- Share with more-than-humans by leaving crops in the ground
- Seasonal festivals (fall harvest festival, spring equinox etc)



Importance/Intent

*Why does it matter to me/my family/our broader community to do this garden task?
How does this garden task affect people outside of my community?*

Our garden decisions are driven by the values of our communities and families:

Indigenous Sovereignty:

How is the way you are gardening supporting Indigenous livelihoods and rights? Whose land are we on? What is our ethical responsibility to Indigenous peoples and relationships to this land?

- *For example, In the Pacific Northwest, treaties protect tribal members' rights to access usual and accustomed gathering sites. How can we garden in a way that protects tribes' treaty rights to access traditional foods?*

Futurity:

It is important to consider the lasting impacts of the garden method (5 years, 20 years, 100 years). Are you harvesting in a way that ensures the plant community will thrive into the future?

- *For example, a typical Coast Salish harvesting technique for camas is digging up the bulbs, keeping larger bulbs and replanting the smaller ones. This technique of selective harvesting aerates the soils and promotes future harvests.*

Sharing from Abundance (Generosity):

Gathering is an opportunity for generosity, to receive the gifts from the garden and in turn share those gifts with family, community and the garden. Sharing stories, food, and song allow the passage of plant knowledge and oral history between generations.

Gratitude Practices

There are many kinds of gratitude practices around meals, healing, gathering, seasonal cycles, and through gift giving. Gardeners can give gratitude for more-than-humans that we share the garden with.

- *Gathering reveals our connection to plants, family, history, recipes, seasons and food. This knowledge can bring a deep appreciation. Gratitude can be shown by giving a gift before or after a story in the garden, for example*

Enjoyment

After much anticipation, gathering is a time to enjoy eating, sharing and celebrating together. The smells, tastes, colors, memories, and stories of gathering can bring joy.

Thriving & Sustenance

Gardens and gardeners provide gifts of sustenance through food and medicine and support the thriving and futures of our families, communities and ecosystems.

CONNECTING TO OTHER GARDEN PRACTICES

- **Seed Saving:** intentionally not harvesting produce and letting the plant go to seed
- **Garden Planning:** deciding what plants to eat this year, and planning to harvest in succession to have sufficient produce throughout the season. The quantity of the plant may determine how much to share with others.
- **Plant Growth and Development:** trellising or staking a plant for ease of harvest, harvesting plants frequently to encourage more production of fruits/flowers, prune off leaves to encourage ripening (ie tomatoes).
- **Watering:** washing produce, using water when cooking

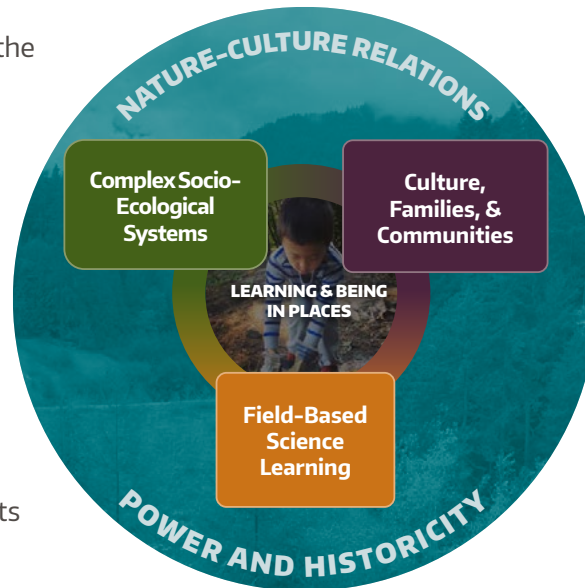
Engaging the Learning in Places Rhizome with Practice

Power and Historicity; Nature-Culture Relations:

- How do we honor stories that affirm Indigenous presence and futures?
- How do we decolonize settler-colonial stories around gathering, sharing and abundance?
- Who decides what types of produce are grown in the garden?
- Where is food accessible in the city?

Complex Socio-Ecological Systems:

- Where does the produce in the store come from? How does it get there? How does it compare to produce from the garden?
- How can we gather, share and celebrate for all species and to restore healthy communities and healthy ecosystems?
- How can we gather, share, celebrate in ways that restore justice and land rights to BIPOC communities?



Culture, Families, and Communities:

- What are our family's recipes, histories and stories around cooking/eating from the garden?
- How does cultural knowledge shape our gathering, sharing, and celebratory practices?
- How can we share our oral traditions around gathering and sharing food?

Field-Based Science Learning:

- **Data & Modeling:** How can we observe and monitor species in the garden to help us determine if we should harvest now?
- **Deliberation & Explanation:** How do we decide how much to harvest?

Storyline Examples for Gathering

LE 2: Common "Should We" questions

- » What should we do with the harvest?
- » Should we share the harvest with the community, humans and more-than-humans?
- » When should we harvest?

LE 4: Garden Methods

- » Different forms of harvesting, storing, preserving the harvest
- » Methods of sharing, bartering, selling, or donating garden produce
- » Exploring different traditions, rituals, practices around harvesting and seasonality

LE 6: Data Collection Connections

- » Research what types of harvest have been done before in your family, by people of this place, or by people who have harvested the crop you've grown
- » Readiness for harvesting: observing for size, color, shape, tops of root crops poking through the soil, potato plant leaves dying back or changing color, color/dryness of husks, firmness of pods or seeds

LE 6: Sample Investigation questions

- » Who is using the harvest, or parts of plants that are ready to eat or use?