



**December 2017**

### **To Whom It May Concern**

#### **Green Fingers Gardening Club 2017**

The Green Fingers Gardening Club is an educational project designed to encourage children and beginning gardeners of all ages to grow their own vegetables at home and to promote healthy lifestyle options. As many families no longer grow their own vegetables, we hope this project will benefit whole families through their child's own learning. The seeds can be grown independently or as a project at school; all seeds provided are suitable for Term One and/or Term Four planting and summer. GFGC has been trialled in Southland and we have found it was most successful when there was someone overseeing the project and making sure the gardeners are caring for their seeds or else interest seemed to wane. This is why we're reaching out to you - we're sending this example pack to you to see if you are interested in participating and in what way your Environment Centre could be involved. We are also asking for your feedback about the proposed project, and we will be sending a follow up email with a link to a survey we would appreciate you filling out, or you can find it by going to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HR95V79>.

#### **How GFGC will work**

The South Coast Environment Society's (SCES) Green Fingers Gardening Club (GFGC) will be the national hub for the project and will put together a GFGC kit which will have: advertising materials, information sheets, order forms, and beginner seed packets made of growing instructions for the seeds they contain. SCES will reach out to other environment centres to find regional coordinators for a small paid or voluntary role and provide them with advertising material and/or any part of the GFGC kit they need. They will use these resources to make the program available to their regional community either through their own organization or by engaging schools or other programs to be involved.

SCES will send advertising tools and order forms to the regional coordinators who will give interested gardeners information sheets and order forms. They will get four seed packs: edible flowers (nasturtiums), peas, salad mix (lettuce and mizuna), and veggie root mix (carrots and radishes), to make up an easy picking garden. These order forms will be returned to the regional coordinator who will put together a master order form that will be sent to SCES to be filled promptly. Seeds and all further information will be sent back to the regional coordinator. SCES will keep a back stock of seeds and information materials so that kits can be made up quickly to order. The cost will be \$7 per gardener for seeds, instructions, and access to the website.

Green Fingers Gardeners will be given instructions on how to access the GFGC website and will sign on as gardeners. They will sign on regularly to be able to access all information (growing instructions, etc.) and will log their garden's progress through the growing season, requesting more seeds if needed. The regional coordinators will be given access as administrators, they will sign on to assess gardener's progress and take note of seed orders which will be sent on to SCES to be filled.

### **Bringing GFGC to all NZ**

We see other environment centres and similar groups around New Zealand playing one of two roles in this project. They could be a regional coordinator, taking on the responsibility of being a GFGC hub, promoting the project, ordering seeds in bulk from SCES and handing them out to the participants. Further responsibilities would be managing the website (marking the journals) of the gardeners in your region. If you do not have the time and the resources to take on the role of regional coordinator, the other key component you could fill would be one of just promoting the project, taking it to local schools and gardening clubs, or even just putting up some posters and information in your centre. Both are roles we need filled to be able to bring this project to all of New Zealand.

If you would like more information about the Green Fingers Gardening Club please get in touch. If possible, we would appreciate if you could display this letter and the link to our survey at your site. We appreciate any support and feedback you are able to provide.

Yours faithfully,  
Rebecca, Hollie, & Robyn  
Project Co-ordinators

The Green Fingers Gardening Club is a project of the South Coast Environment Centre with the support of the Community Trust of Southland

