



Outdoor Classroom Project Plan: Materials List & Budget for Sensory Garden

A sensory garden includes plants that help teach students how to use all five senses (sight, touch, taste, smell, touch) as they explore the outdoor classroom. Some plants have bright flowers or leaves to trigger a visual response, while other plants feel, taste, or smell unique. Wind chimes make a great, simple addition to the garden, but expanded sound gardens can be incorporated into the outdoor classroom as well. Each garden should incorporate elements that engage the students with all five of their senses.

❖ Habitat Requirements:

- Full sun for 6-8 hours per day for optimal plant growth
- Near the entrance of the outdoor classroom if possible

❖ Example Sensory Garden Pictures & Educational Sign:



Lamb's Ear is very soft to the touch. (above)

Chocolate Mint tastes and smells yummy. (below)





OC Project Plan: Example Sensory Garden Materials List & Budget

❖ Estimated Cost:

- ❑ Example 4 ft x 13 ft Sensory Garden: 3-sided garden against the school building: **\$570-\$575**
- ❑ Example 5 ft x 14 ft Sensory Garden: 4-sided garden away from school building: **\$690-\$695**

❖ Materials & Supplies Lists with Estimated Budgets:

Example 3-sided Sensory Garden				
(Actual Size: 3 ft 8 in (W) x 13 ft 8 in (L) x 6 in (D) 3-sided raised bed garden against school building → ~19 CF)				
Station	Materials & Supplies	Estimated Cost	Source of Materials	Final Cost
3-Sensory	(1) Can of Rust-Oleum Professional White Water-based Marking paint (for laying out garden) @~\$9.98 ea	\$10	Lowe's Item #429750	
3-Sensory	(40) Old Manor 12-in L x 4-in H x 8-in D Concrete Retaining Wall Blocks (to create three sides of raised bed against school building) @~\$2.88 ea	\$115 total	Lowe's Item #477088	
3-Sensory	(1) 6'x50' Sta-Green Professional Landscape Fabric (weed barrier) (16' used for this garden) @~\$33.98 ea	\$35	Lowe's Item #510606	
3-Sensory	(4) 32-Quart (1CF) Bags of Evergreen Organic Potting Soil Mix @~\$6.38 ea	\$25 total	Lowe's Item #380608	
3-Sensory	(7) 1 CF/32 Qt Bags of Evergreen Organic Top Soil @~\$2.18 each	\$15 total	Lowe's Item #648834	
3-Sensory	(2) 1 CF Bags of Evergreen Organic Compost and Manure @~\$3.68 ea	\$10 total	Lowe's Item #380606	
3-Sensory	(3) 2 CF Bags of Evergreen Organic Drainage and Aeration Soil Conditioner @~\$4.58 ea	\$15 total	Lowe's Item #648829	
3-Sensory	(16) Sensory Plants (4 different species (one per sense), 4 plants per species – see list below) @~\$7 ea	\$110 total	Nursery via OC Consultant	
3-Sensory	(2) Hanging Baskets with Flowers @~\$15 ea	\$30 total	Nursery via OC Consultant	
3-Sensory	(1) Style Selections 30-in Black Metal Shepherd's Hook (set of 2) (for hanging flower baskets) @~\$13.98 ea	\$15 total	Lowe's Item #2675239	
3-Sensory	(1) Package of 40 6" Black Plastic Landscape Edging Pieces (18 to create (3) 3 ft dividers between the four plant species to make plant ID & weeding easier) @~\$21.98 ea	\$20	Lowe's Item #379805	
3-Sensory	(3) 2 CF Bags of Natural Dark Brown Pine Bark Mulch @~3.48 ea **do NOT get black mulch as it gets hot and kills plants**	\$10 total	Lowe's Item #92118	





OC Project Plan: Example Sensory Garden Materials List & Budget

❖ Materials & Supplies with Estimated Budget (cont.)

3-Sensory	(1) Set of Grayson Lane 36-in Brass Sun Metal Wind Chime @~\$17.29 ea OR (1) Set of Zingz & Thingz 34-in Metal Hummingbird Wind Chime @ 25.98 ea	\$20-25	Lowe's Item #3602357 OR Lowe's Item #511650	
3-Sensory	(1) Garden Accents 64-in Steel-painted Metal Traditional Shepherd's Hook (to hang wind chimes) @~\$10.98 ea	\$10	Lowe's Item #150326	
3-Sensory	(4) Plant ID Signs (one for each species) @~\$6 ea	\$25 total	https://www.alabamawildlife.org/oc-dig-into-plants/ for details	
3-Sensory	(4) Biomarkers to hold Plant ID signs (13" stake with a 2" x 4" plate) @ ~\$3 ea (includes S&H)	\$15 total	AWF OC Consultant or https://mcgbiomarkers.com/shop/	
3-Sensory	Educational Sign (explain how senses are engaged)	\$75	Ask OC Consultant about https://www.alabamawildlife.org/oc-signs/	
3-Sensory	(1) 6 ft. U-Post for Fence (for educational sign) @~\$10.69 ea	\$10	Lowe's Item #493054	
3-Sensory	(1) Hillman 1/4-in x 1-1/2 in Zinc-Plated Coarse Thread Hex Bolt (2-count) @~\$0.88 ea	\$5 Total	Lowe's Item #137634	
3-Sensory	(2) Hillman 1/4-in x 20 Zinc-Plated Steel Hex Nut @~\$0.10 ea		Lowe's Item #63301	
3-Sensory	(2) Hillman 1/4-in Zinc-Plated Standard Flat Washer @~\$0.15 ea		Lowe's Item #63306	
Total Estimated Cost: \$570-\$575				

Example 4-sided Sensory Garden

(Actual Size: 4 ft 8 in (W) x 13 ft 8 in (L) x 6" (D) 4-sided raised bed garden → ~20 CF)

Station	Materials & Supplies	Estimated Cost	Source of Materials	Final Cost
4-Sensory	(1) Can of Rust-Oleum Professional White Water-based Marking paint (for laying out garden) @~10.98 ea	\$10	Lowe's Item #429750	
4-Sensory	(70) Old Manor 12-in L x 4-in H x 8-in D Concrete Retaining Wall Blocks (to create four sides of raised bed garden) @~\$2.88 ea	\$200 total	Lowe's Item #477088	
4-Sensory	(1) 6'x50' Sta-Green Professional Landscape Fabric (weed barrier) (16' used for this garden) @~\$33.98 ea	\$35	Lowe's Item #510606	
4-Sensory	(4) 32-Quart (1CF) Bags of Evergreen Organic Potting Soil Mix @~\$6.38 ea	\$25 total	Lowe's Item #380608	





OC Project Plan: Example Sensory Garden Materials List & Budget

❖ Materials & Supplies with Estimated Budget (cont.)

4-Sensory	(8) 1 CF/32 Qt Bags of Evergreen Organic Top Soil @~\$2.18 each	\$20 total	Lowe's Item #648834	
4-Sensory	(2) 1 CF Bags of Evergreen Organic Compost and Manure @~\$3.68 ea	\$10 total	Lowe's Item #380606	
4-Sensory	(3) 2 CF Bags of Evergreen Organic Drainage and Aeration Soil Conditioner @~\$4.58 ea	\$15 total	Lowe's Item #648829	
4-Sensory	(20) Sensory Plants (4 different species (one per sense), 4 plants per species – see list below) @~\$7 ea	\$140 total	Nursery via OC Consultant	
4-Sensory	(2) Hanging Baskets with Flowers @~\$15 ea	\$30 total	Nursery via OC Consultant	
4-Sensory	(1) Style Selections 30-in Black Metal Shepherd's Hook (set of 2) (for hanging flower baskets) @~\$13.98 ea	\$15 total	Lowe's Item #2675239	
4-Sensory	(1) Package of 40 6" Black Plastic Landscape Edging Pieces (18 to create (3) 3 ft dividers between the four plant species to make plant ID & weeding easier) @~\$21.98 ea	\$20	Lowe's Item #379805	
4-Sensory	(3) 2 CF Bags of Natural Dark Brown Pine Bark Mulch @~3.48 ea **do NOT get black mulch as it gets hot and kills plants**	\$10 total	Lowe's Item #92118	
4-Sensory	(1) Set of Grayson Lane 36-in Brass Sun Metal Wind Chime @~\$17.29 ea OR (1) Set of Zingz & Thingz 34-in Metal Hummingbird Wind Chime @ 25.98 ea	\$20-25	Lowe's Item #3602357 OR Lowe's Item #511650	
4-Sensory	(1) Garden Accents 64-in Steel-painted Metal Traditional Shepherd's Hook (to hang wind chimes) @~\$10.98 ea	\$10	Lowe's Item #150326	
4-Sensory	(4) Plant ID Signs (one for each species) @~\$6 ea	\$25 total	https://www.alabamawildlife.org/oc-dig-into-plants/ for details	
4-Sensory	(4) Biomarkers to hold Plant ID signs (13" stake with a 2" x 4" plate) @ ~\$3 ea (includes S&H)	\$15 total	AWF OC Consultant or https://mcgbiomarkers.com/shop/	
4-Sensory	Educational Sign (explain how senses are engaged)	\$75	Ask OC Consultant about https://www.alabamawildlife.org/oc-signs/	
4-Sensory	(1) 6 ft. U-Post for Fence (for educational sign) @~\$10.69 ea	\$10	Lowe's Item #493054	





OC Project Plan: Example Sensory Garden Materials List & Budget

❖ Materials & Supplies with Estimated Budget (cont.)

4-Sensory	(1) Hillman 1/4-in x 1-1/2 in Zinc-Plated Coarse Thread Hex Bolt (2-count) @~\$0.88 ea	\$5 total	Lowe's Item #137634	
4-Sensory	(2) Hillman 1/4-in x 20 Zinc-Plated Steel Hex Nut @~\$0.10 ea		Lowe's Item #63301	
4-Sensory	(2) Hillman 1/4-in Zinc-Plated Standard Flat Washer @~\$0.15 ea		Lowe's Item #63306	
Total Estimated Cost: \$690-\$695				

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❖ Sensory Plant Suggestions:

- ❑ Customized plant identification signs with unique scannable QR Codes linked to webpages on AWF's website are available for the **bolded species below**. The webpages provide specific information about that plant species including a description of the plant, photos of the plant, maintenance tips, and the ecological benefits that species provides. Plant species marked with an asterisk* are recommended for a sensory garden.

Sight			
Clover	Bleeding Heart	Narrowleaf Sunflower	Stokes Aster
Pink Muhly Grass	Oxeye Daisy	Dense Blazing Star	Eastern Red Columbine
Taste			
Chocolate cosmos	Pineapple Sage	*Spearmint	Wild Strawberry
Swiss Chard	Lettuces	Chives	Arugula
Touch			
*Lamb's Ear (<i>*only need 1</i>)	Feather Grass	Maidenhair Fern	Sensitive Plant
Silver Mound	Sphagnum Moss	*Autumn Joy Sedum	Fountain Grass
Smell			
*Rosemary (<i>*only need 1</i>)	*Lavender	Lemon Balm	Orange Mint
Creeping Phlox	Patchouli	Lemon Verbena	Lilac

