



About Growing Native



Growing Native focuses on the structure and importance of native trees within our rural and urban landscapes. Growing Native helps students discover the connections between trees and the health of rivers while simultaneously linking learning standards. Students discover that trees play a key role in our ecosystem and are important to clean waterways.

Four education sessions are paired with a hands-on conservation project where students plant native seeds or tree whips in one of two types of Grow-Out Stations at their school. The Grow-Out Stations allow students to observe and monitor the growth of their seeds into small tree whips.

Partnership with PVAS

CI has partnered with Potomac Valley Audubon Society to expand the Growing Native Program. PVAS has a long history of conducting environmental education programs within Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan counties WV and recently adding Washington County, MD.



PVAS is delivering the Growing Native program to fourth and fifth grade students with the assistance of CI. Schools that completed the program this fall are Eagle School Intermediate,

Ranson Elementary, and Saint Josephs Parish School. Tomahawk Intermediate and Orchard View Intermediate began a year long

program that will conclude in the spring of 2015 with their planting.

Growing Native Spreads to the Shenandoah Valley

Riverheads Elementary School, Staunton, VA, was the newest school to participate in the Shenandoah Valley. The school is located at the headwaters of the Shenandoah River making it the ideal location to learn about the importance of trees on water quality. Growing Native is going to expand to reach other schools within the Shenandoah Valley this spring.

Seed Collection	
Species	Weight (lbs.)
Oak	169.5
Hickory	13
Dogwood	1.5
Seed Propagation*	
School	# Pots
Eagle School Inter.	120
Ranson Elem.	120
Riverheads Elem.	97

*in addition to 337 pots planted at schools, 611 seeds were sent home with instructions for planting

Growing Native Schools

Eagle School Intermediate

The 231 fifth grade students planted native seeds in a Caged Grow-Out Station. Students planted Chestnut Oak, Chinkapin Oak, and Flowering Dogwood seeds. These seeds will grow for over a year until they are large enough to be sold or planted.

Ranson Elementary

Fourth and fifth grade students participated in the education program. Sixty-five fifth grade students planted two Chestnut Oak seeds in Tub Grow-Out Stations at the school. Students will monitor the progress of their seeds throughout the winter and spring.



Saint Josephs Parish School

The forty second graders expanded their lesson plan to plant native tree seeds. Students are currently learning about the different parts of the tree and why they are important. The forty fourth grade students recently learned about erosion and the key role trees play as streamside buffers. Students took home their own planted seed to watch it grow throughout the winter and spring.

Riverheads Elementary

The 97 fourth graders planted Chestnut Oak seeds in the school's Tub Grow-Out Station. Students were allowed the opportunity to take home an additional seed to be planted at their house.

