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Module 10: Garden Ecology

Urban EcoLab

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Student Handout - Long-Term Garden Maintenance Research

Center for Urban Resilience

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Name: _____ Date: _____
 School: _____ Class Period: _____

Long-Term Garden Maintenance Research

Lesson Purpose: To conduct research on various aspects of maintaining a garden for a long-term duration, to ensure a successful garden year-round. The research conducted will include students in each group making recommendations on their assigned topic to the whole class, during the whole-group share-out in Activity 3. This research is critical to informing the class on how to proceed with the Master Garden Maintenance Checklist which will be created in Activity 4.

Research Resources: In addition to searching content-specific internet sites, student can access the articles in the “Reading Materials” section of the Module 10 resources. There are some great articles, including one titled:

- **“Setting up and running a school garden.”** This particular article has some great information that will be helpful to many of the research groups.

Research Topics:

- **Reviewing Existing Garden Maintenance Processes (established in Lesson 7)**
 - 3 Ws: Walking, weeding, watering
 - Thinning vegetables
 - Protecting plants from inclement weather
 - Harvesting processes & timeline
 - Distributing produce
 - Flower care
- **Pest Management**
 - Article: “In the Garden” by Greg Rubin
 - Looking at pest management in a new way ...
 - Green pest management options
 - Integrated Pest Management (IPM) solutions
 - Solve pest problems
 - Minimize risks to humans, pets, and wildlife
- **Composting**
 - “From table to farm”
- **Fertilizing the Soil (Soil Amending)**
 - Ensuring good soil quality
- **Rotating Crops**
 - Planning for year-round garden cycles
- **Soil Coverage**
 - Mulch needs
 - Weed mat

Tasks:

- Students will be divided into groups and assigned one of the above topics.
- Be sure students have access to computers, the internet, and a quiet space to conduct research.
- Students can use the space on Page 2 to jot down notes on things they learn, and recommendations, which they will then share whole-group on Day 3 of the Lesson.

