

Faith Community and Religious School Gardening Resources

[Alumot: A Jewish Gardening Project](#), by the Teva Learning Center. “Completed and published in August of 2004, the Alumot Resource Manual for Jewish Educators is a valuable tool for people looking to integrate gardening into their teachings. The manual follows the progression of starting and maintaining a garden program and places each stage in a Jewish framework by connecting it to texts, holidays and rituals. It is full of numerous activities for gardeners young and old and also includes a full resource section, suggested themes for Jewish gardens and contact information for various Jewish gardening projects around the country.” \$

[Christian Garden Blessing Service](#) by the Web of Creation. The blessing service contains prayers, Bible readings, songs, and an entire service for the blessing of a garden. FREE

[Earthkeeping Ministries: A New Vision for Congregations](#), by Suse Greenstone, Jon Greenstone, and Cassandra Carmichael, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This book was designed as a congregational toolbox and includes ideas for starting or enhancing a hands-on congregational earth keeping ministry and practical suggestions, instructions and resources for gardening as a ministry. \$

[Power of Hope Garden, Baltimore](#) The Power of Hope Garden is a neighborhood garden in Baltimore established in 1993 that employs the labor of local homeless and low-income residents to help feed the city's disadvantaged community. The garden started as a joint venture between Gloria Luster, a Baltimore resident and Master Gardener, and the Reverend Choyce Hall, pastor of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Since receiving her certification, Luster had been hoping to start a garden for the poor and hungry in Baltimore, but was having little success finding an eligible partner. Hall, who understood the importance of developing an environmental dimension to his inner-city ministry, was looking for an environmental project in which to invest his support. The two met, and shortly thereafter the Power of Hope Garden was born.

[Spiritual Growth through Domestic Gardening](#), by Al Fritsch, Appalachia Science in the Public Interest. This book is a practical and spiritual guide to gardening through the seasons that elucidates how the simple act of gardening is a catalyst in creating a new Eden. FREE.

[Starting an Urban Garden/Peah Gardens/Corner Plots](#), by the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL). Provides ideas for starting a synagogue garden, promoting urban agriculture, etc. FREE

To Till It and Keep It: New Models for Congregational Involvement with the Land, by Dan Guenther, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Land

Stewardship Project. This publication explores various models for church-sponsored agricultural stewardship projects, such as community supported agriculture, community gardening, youth gardening, support for local food systems, church food purchase policy, seed saving, preservation of farm land, and environmental tithing. Available from the Land Stewardship Project, 2200 Fourth St., White Bear Lake, MN 55110. (612) 653-0618. \$5