

School Greenhouses



Twenty of Return of the Natives' school partners have working greenhouses on their school sites. In the fall, they are used to grow native plants for restoration sites and school gardens. In the springtime, the greenhouses are used to grow organic vegetable-starts for small-scale organic farmers.



The majority of the school greenhouses are built by RON staff and CSUMB students, with funding from local foundations.



Return of the Natives staff lead seed sowing activities and lessons in ecology, preparing teachers and students to grow plant seedlings.



For students these schoolyard activities are a fun and relished opportunity for hands-on learning. This learning supports the important curricular standards which are the backbone of every school's curriculum.



Learning continues after the seeds are sown. For the following three months, students water and care for the young seedlings.



These RON greenhouses act as outdoor classrooms where students learn important lessons through the process of growing both native plants for real restoration projects, and heirloom vegetable starts for local organic farmers.



‘I thought that the Return of the Natives program was very helpful to my classroom curriculum. The themes for third grade consistently emphasize natural resources, natural habitats and community’

*Loma Vista Elementary, Salinas
- 3rd grade teacher*