

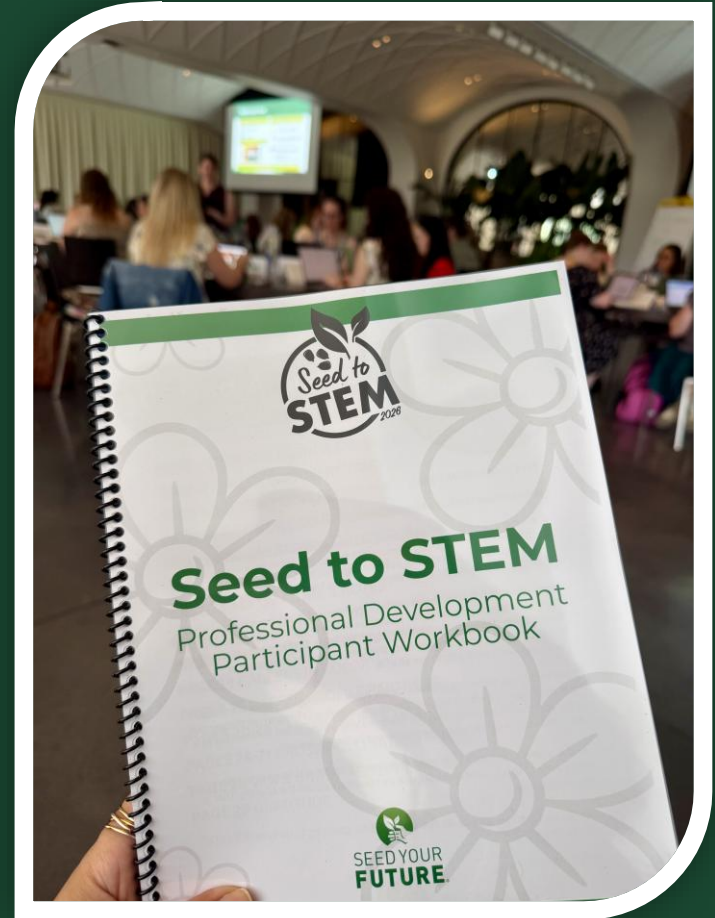
JUNE 14-18, 2026 • LONGWOOD GARDENS & BEYOND

Seed to STEM 2026

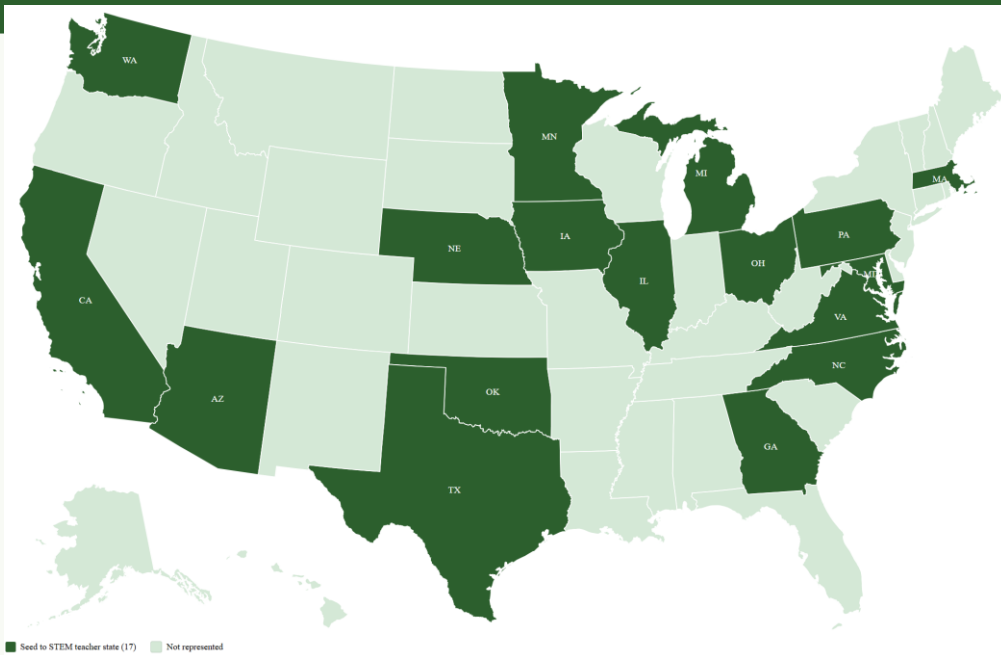
A Week in the Field

One transformative week immersed in horticulture careers.

Seed Your Future | seedyourfuture.org



2026 SEED TO STEM — BY THE NUMBERS



5

Host Sites

4

Days in the Field

34

Educators

17

States Represented

The 2026 cohort represented one of the most geographically diverse groups in Seed to STEM history - from west coast to east, educators arrived ready to bring horticulture to life in their classrooms.



DAY 1

Longwood Gardens

Kennett Square, Pennsylvania

Teachers arrived that afternoon and hit the ground running – gathering at Longwood Gardens for the first time in person as a cohort, breaking the ice with team-building activities, then rolling up their sleeves for their first working session before sitting down to a welcome dinner hosted by Longwood Gardens.

“*In the past, I touched on career a little at the start of the year and during Seed Your Future's Green Career Week. Now I want to bring them into every unit, talking about careers linked to the industry whether we're discussing cells or food security, not just in floriculture or landscaping, so students see all the options available to them.*

- Taylor Wilton-Cooper, Plant Science Educator from Omaha, NE

Welcome and Dinner Photos





DAY 2

Longwood Gardens

Kennett Square, Pennsylvania

Teachers opened the week with a behind-the-scenes look at one of the world's great public gardens. From the conservatory's towering collections to the horticultural team managing 1,100 acres, educators saw career pathways in public horticulture up close and met eight professionals who make it all happen.

“Seed to STEM changed the way I think about teaching horticulture. I didn't realize how much went into the industry – from manufacturing, growing to business, technology and beyond – it has expanded my perspective, which I'll now share with my students.”

- Anna Brooks, Agriculture Educator from Ames, IA

Immersive Site Photos



DAY 3

Overdevest Nurseries

Bridgeton, New Jersey

Day 3 took the cohort to take a deeper look at ornamental tree and shrub production, with conversations about what it takes to build a career growing plants for landscapes across the country, water conservation and integrated pest management.

“ I now see how many different job opportunities there are in horticulture outside of growing and caring for plants – thousands of skills and jobs needed to help the industry thrive. I also see the need for communicating these opportunities to young people. I had no idea some of these careers existed!

- Sara Beth, Horticulture Educator from Raleigh, NC





Immersive Site Photos

DAY 3

Lucas Greenhouse

Monroeville, New Jersey

Day 3 second stop took the cohort to Lucas Greenhouse, where educators explored plant trials firsthand, got an up-close look at large-scale irrigation systems, and saw how seed planting has been transformed through automation – a behind the scenes glimpse into the technology and people driving today's plant production.

“ *One thing I see differently about the horticulture industry today is how many career opportunities and areas of innovation exist within the field. Before, I mostly viewed horticulture as plant production and greenhouse work – now I see how it connects to sustainability, research, and environmental solutions.*

- Jazmin Ocampo, Horticulture Educator from Moore, OK



Immersive Site Photos



DAY 3

DVFlora

Mantua, New Jersey

Day 3 third visit concluded at DVFlora, where educators experienced the floral supply chain in action – from importing and processing to the logistics that move flowers from farm to florist. It was a vivid reminder that horticulture careers extend well beyond the greenhouse and are global.

“ *Seed to STEM connects real people and real businesses to horticulture textbook content – it makes the knowledge come alive. It changed the way I think about the plant world around me. It illuminated the connection and pathway of horticulture to my everyday life.*

- Tracey Sanderson, Horticulture Educator from Lee, IL



Immersive Site Photos





DAY 4

North Creek Nurseries

Landenberg, Pennsylvania

The educators discovered the scale and science of wholesale native plant production and the careers that power it, from seed production, propagation to trial and evaluation. Where horticulture meets ecology, educators saw firsthand how the industry is shaping environmental impact.

“North Creek Nurseries stood out to me in a way that's almost difficult to describe. It felt so homey and serene, even at the commercial scale they operate. Every single person had such a smile on their face.

- Kori Long, Floral Design Educator from Splendora, TX

Immersive Site Photos





DAY 4

Longwood Student Panel

Kennett Square, Pennsylvania

The student panel gave educators a rare and powerful moment – hearing directly from young people who stumbled into horticulture by accident, never knowing it was a career pathway, and wishing a high school teacher had told them sooner.

“For several years, I hesitated to make industry contacts and set up my Advisory Board. Seed to STEM showed me how willing and ready people in the industry are to collaborate with educators on engaging pathways for students. I can't wait to bring new opportunities to my students.

- Dr. Megan Hall Horticulture Educator from Saint Paul, MN

DAY 4 — THE FINAL PD MOMENTS



Classroom PD

Curing the Cross-Pollination Circles, educators shared their own expert teaching tips, classroom management strategies, and high-impact ideas with one another, creating a collaborative learning community where every participant both learned from and contributed to the collective expertise of the group.

PD Workshop

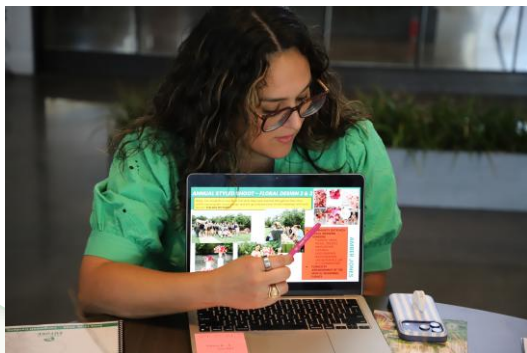
The Seed to STEM Classroom PD workshops experience equipped educators with ready-to-use resources, career-connected instructional strategies, and collaborative planning opportunities that deepened their understanding of horticulture and floriculture industry while strengthening classroom instruction.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

The educators return home ready to inspire thousands of students.

Classroom Integration

Teachers leave with lesson plans, industry contacts, and firsthand experiences they can bring directly into their curriculum.



Industry Connections

Each educator now has relationships with growers, researchers, and distributors - a network they can tap for student opportunities.



Community Ripple Effect

One teacher can reach hundreds of students per year. This cohort has the potential to inspire careers across 17 states.





It takes a village. Industry leaders, peer mentors, and Seed Your Future.

We're united around one mission: inspiring the next generation of horticulture professionals.

(L to R): Jim Brameyer (Seed to STEM Peer Mentor), Jazmin Albarran (Executive Director, Seed Your Future), Devon Lyons (Seed to STEM Peer Mentor), Kate Delaney (Society of American Florists), and Broch Martindale (Board President, Seed Your Future).

Taking the picture, Erin Nessmith, SYF Seed to STEM Program Coordinator.

INVEST IN WHAT GROWS

Help Us Plant More Seeds.

Support Seed to STEM 2027 and Beyond

This week proved what we already believed: when educators experience horticulture firsthand, everything changes. They return to their classrooms energized, equipped, and connected to an industry ready to welcome the next generation.

HOST SPONSOR

\$20,000

Fund one full site visit experience for the entire cohort

PROGRAM SPONSOR

\$5,000

Underwrite travel, meals, accommodations and program materials for one educator

EDUCATOR SPONSOR

\$1,000

Sends an educator into their classroom with career exploration collateral

To learn how your support grows the next generation of horticulture professionals, contact Jazmin Albarran jalbarran@seedyourfuture.org

Thank You.

- *Ball Horticultural Company*
- *Longwood Gardens*
- *Corteva Agriscience*
- *Center for Plant Excellence*

Our 2026 Seed to STEM donor support made this week possible - and through these 34 educators, it will plant seeds for careers we can't yet imagine.

Seed Your Future

seedyourfuture.org

*Questions? Contact Jazmin Albarran, Executive Director
jalbarran@seedyourfuture.org*

