



**Planting A Promise**  
aitc.ca/bc

## **BC Agriculture in the Classroom working to bring BC's Agriculture to our students.**

Planting a Promise gives students the opportunity to discover the wonder of flower bulbs. Teachers have reported that this program supports a sense of community, parents notice and comment on the beautiful flowers, and students show ownership and pride when they see their bulbs flourish into school yards of daffodils. This program has grown to 295 classrooms participating across the province. Previously participating students are excited to see the flowers bloom from the bulbs they had planted 2 years before.

**What did we offer the schools?**

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**Where are we growing?**

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**Who's participating?**

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**Student reactions**

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**Measuring Success**

### **Sponsors**

Van Noort Bulb Company  
BC Alpine Garden Club

### **Partners**

Garden Centers





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**2017/18**

## **What did we offer the schools?**

Any teacher in BC may apply for the program if they have an assigned classroom. Van Noort Bulb Company in Langley assembles each kit for BC Agriculture in the Classroom. They distribute the kits to the designated garden centers and each teacher picks up his/her own kit from the garden center near their school at the end of September. Each classroom is given 35 giant King Alfred Bulbs, 5 bulbs to use in the classroom to dissect, observe and predict. Students learn what bulbs need to grow, they plant the bulb in the fall with a promise that a flower will grow in the spring. During the growing season the students continue to observe and measure the growing flowers. In the late spring students tend to the bulb for the last time by removing the seed pod and later removing the dead foliage.



*Measuring the first signs  
of the flowers*

Carnarvon Community School -  
Vancouver

## **Where are we growing?**

The first year there were 110 classrooms on the program. In 2017/18 school year there were 295 classes or 7,375 students growing daffodils. Schools in remote areas like Tatla Lake, Port Alice and Vanderhoof were excited to be part of this program.



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## Who's participating?

Planting a Promise involves a series of activities that takes place over several months. The activities begin in the classroom in September, where daffodil bulbs are examined, then planted in a designated garden area for a school. In the spring when the bulbs begin to sprout and bloom, the activities continue as the daffodil plants are observed and measured while they grow. In late June, the daffodils enter their dormant stage and are ready to start the daffodil life all over again. This has curriculum connections in the primary grades where students learn about the processes and skills of science, life and earth sciences, as well as the opportunities for language arts and fine arts.



*Planting in October*

Kanaka Creek Elementary –  
Maple Ridge

*Measuring the full grown  
daffodil flower*

Daniel Woodward Elementary –  
Richmond





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## Student Reactions



*Connection to Art classes*

Dr. Thomas A Swift Elementary –  
Abbotsford

*“The students were amazed!”*

John Calvin School – Chilliwack



*Beautiful!*

Bench Elementary – Cowichan Bay



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## **Measuring Success**

Planting a Promise supports the BC school curriculum and meets our objective at BC Agriculture in the Classroom which is **working to bring BC's agriculture to our students.**

To help measure our success:

- Teachers submit 'authorized release' pictures to BC Agriculture in the Classroom showing their activities and progress
- BC Agriculture in the Classroom posts pictures to Twitter or Facebook to show program fun!
- For teachers new to the program (first year) they are asked to complete an online survey
- Surveys are read and reviewed for ways to improve the program

We know it is successful when:

- Teachers return to the program year after year
- New teachers enroll each year after hearing about it from their colleagues
- A wait list for the program proves to us that this is a popular program and teachers are interested in bringing agriculture into their classrooms

Planting a Promise certainly has the interest and potential to grow. It is an easy program for teachers to follow and the students learn about planting and growing. It offers the students the opportunity to have hands on experience. Once the flower blooms the entire school community benefits, the school yards come alive with colour and the students are excited to have been a part of it.

**Thank you to our sponsors Van Noort Bulb Company and BC Alpine Garden Club** as well as our partner garden centers for this program:

**Art Knapp's Plantland** – Courtney, **Sticks N Stones Nursery** – Campbell River,  
**Hunters Garden Center** – Surrey and Vancouver, **Dykhof Nurseries Ltd.** – North Vancouver,  
**Garden Works** – Lougheed and Mandeville in Burnaby, **Minter Country Garden** – Chilliwack,  
**Buckerfield's** – Abbotsford, Duncan, Nanaimo, Parksville, Saanich, Salmon Arm, West Kelowna,  
**Phoenix Perennials** – Richmond, **Grow and Gather** – Maple Ridge.

Watch a daffodil planting day: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fe4T-k34I8M&feature=youtu.be>

