

WaterWorks Education Center receives hundreds of plants to use for education

By JENNIFER SUMMER
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Dozens of different vegetable and herb plants arrived at the WaterWorks Education Center near Humble as an effort to teach students more about gardening.

Employees at WaterWorks worked with other city of Houston representatives to plant the plants outside the center May 30.

"Linda Williams and Brenda Templeton applied for a contest and they were rewarded by Burpee Home Gardens with the 'I Can Grow' Youth Garden Award. Since Timberline is a Burpee distributor and we also have a great relationship with them, this is a win-win for the community," Bob Robertson, owner of Kingwood Garden Center, said at the planting.

Kingwood Garden Center also received plants from Timberline which it can display and sell at its location in Kingwood.

Selected as one of six winners from more than 500 entries from 43 states, WaterWorks Education Center was selected as a winner of the

Burpee Home Gardens "I Can Grow" Youth Garden Award based on its plan to provide hands-on gardening workshops to more than 980,000 students in Houston-area schools as well as to members of the community.

"One of the things we have for students around our community is Water Week. We will have these plants in place which will be another activity where a speaker could teach them about gardening. I was determined to have a community garden here for the children, so this will be great for students on our tours," Williams said.

The 2012 "I Can Grow" Youth Garden Award supports established or start-up school and community gardens that demonstrate well-developed and staffed plans for youth-centered educational programs emphasizing nutrition and food production, environmental awareness, social responsibility and scholastic integration.

Students can draw on and decorate the outsides of each of the wooden containers where the plants were planted when they visit WaterWorks on a tour.

"There are a lot of students who visit WaterWorks who have never seen a garden and see where plants truly come from because they live in the city. This will help us show our students how to make their own garden and how water makes the plants grow," Templeton said.

For Timberline Nursery in Hillister, Texas, it is also important to have a partnership with places like Kingwood Garden Center because those businesses are experts on all of the plants provided but they are secluded, so this offers Timberline the chance to educate others.

"We are excited to provide these plants in order to educate students in the community as well as others who purchase the plants for their own yard. We are thankful for the partnerships we have developed," Nelson Darden with Timberline Nursery said.

The WaterWorks Education Center is located at 12121 N. Sam Houston Parkway East in Humble between Fall Creek and Summerwood.

For more information, call 832-395-3791.





Photo by JENNIFER SUMMER/The Observer

Brenda Templeton, senior community liaison, City of Houston WaterWorks Education Center, selects several of the plants delivered to the center to plant. WaterWorks Education Center was selected as a winner of the Burpee Home Gardens "I Can Grow" Youth Garden Award based on its plan to provide hands-on gardening workshops to more than 980,000 students in Houston-area schools as well as to members of the community.



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