



GROWING A SAFER GARDEN STATE

Optimal Conditions

Communities that value safety, connection, and responsibility

Considerations

Offer folks lots of time to practice and work through fears or hesitations.

Signs of Growth

Bystanders are engaged when intervention isn't strange or distracting. It's just the norm.

Pro-social Action (*Bystanderus interruptia*)

Each one of us has the potential to create safety, show respect, and offer support to someone else. An **active bystander** is someone who sees that potential in themselves and others and decides to stop injustice when and where they notice it.

Active bystanders **can grow anywhere, but thrive in safe conditions where people help and encourage each other.** A bystander can spot the harm in comments, “jokes,” and behaviors and take the time to speak up.

“That’s not cool.” - “I don’t think that’s funny.” - “Are you OK?”

Special Instructions

- It’s important to honor and respect the fears or hesitations folks might have when being asked to interrupt harmful norms.
- Bystanders need time and space to learn and sprout. Be patient and allow someone to find their own way.
- Support! Support! Support! Bystanders need encouragement and celebration when caught “doing good.” Offer praise when you see someone taking action.