

Let's get started!

Gardening is a fantastic way to take learning outside the classroom and to inspire growing minds. We wanted to make it as simple as possible for schools to start gardening, so this information sheet is designed to give you all the basic gardening information you need to make your green fingered venture a success!



Our school does not have the finances to buy gardening equipment. We would love to get our pupils growing, what can we do?

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Use empty yoghurt cartons and empty toilet rolls for plant pots. Empty pop bottles and clear plastic bags make great mini greenhouses. Why not download the 'getting started' video clip and let Zoë Salmon show you how?



How much space does a school need to get started?

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A windowsill, a grow-bag, a container or a patch of land - you can use all these to get started. Root vegetables are slow growers so sow faster growing greenhouse vegetables such as salad leaves, tomatoes, and radishes to maintain a child's enthusiasm.



I'm totally new to gardening; can my class grow seeds in soil from the school grounds?

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Garden soil doesn't have the nutrients needed for seeds to grow and it's likely to be contaminated with weeds, diseased organisms and traces of chemicals. It's important to choose the right compost for the seeds you are growing and if you are looking to help the environment, peat-free is a great option.



What seeds should I buy?

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What you grow is dependent upon the space and equipment you have, so check the plant will fit your needs.

Let's get started! (Cont.)



How do I store any leftover seeds so I can use them again next term?

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Seeds from packets always carry a 'sow by' date so always check the packet before you buy. Once opened it should be kept in a dry, cool and dark environment. If you are using seeds that have been collected, ensure they are completely dried out before storing. Keep them in a container in the fridge and always remember to label with the seed name and date of their collection.



I am worried I have left it too late to start sowing seeds and that my class will be disappointed if nothing grows.

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Although there is always a best time to sow specific seeds, (please see the 'what grows when?' information sheet for further details), many can be sown all year round; for example herbs, mung beans and cress.