

Growing Organisation & School/Nursery Partnership Growing Plan

School/nursery contact:

Growing organisation contact:

Growing Infrastructure

Access to hosepipe/water butt/outdoor tap

Composting

Sheltered areas

Growing areas (raised beds, no dig beds)

Full sun

Containers/planters

Polytunnel/greenhouse

Tools/equipment (shovels, trowels, seed pots, trays, gloves etc)

Volunteers/staff who can oversee watering during holiday periods

School/Nursery

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Growing Organisation

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Discussions to have with your community growing organisation partner:

- Can your partner provide space in polytunnels/greenhouses for seedlings from March-June? When can you drop these off and collect them?
- Can they provide cuttings from their own established plants (e.g. lavender, thyme, sage, rosemary) for your sensory herb garden or containers?
- Can they ask their volunteers to get involved in community growing days at the school/nursery?
- Can your partner sow some of the same plants as you so you can compare growing rates, success rates and can share and exchange seedlings?
- Can you and your partner plant more than is needed to be sold to raise money for growing activities?
- When can you arrange a visit to your partner's community growing space?
- Can your partner support with watering over holiday periods?

Other materials you may need to buy: bamboo canes, gardening twine/string, black bin bags, cotton buds, compost, seed storage container

How to use this guide

Find the month column and read the instructions for each growing area for that month. Make a to-do list from this and get growing!

Spring

School/nursery raised beds or containers

February

Check raised beds/larger containers if windy and re-cover with cardboard if necessary.

March

Add a layer of compost over any old cardboard that was protecting the soil to prepare soil for new seeds. Remove stones and rocks.

Transplant your onions and leeks from seed trays into containers/raised beds. You can plant them quite shallow and in clumps.

[How to sow and grow onions/leeks.](#)

Plant potato chits in a bed/container. Keep well watered and add compost as they grow.

April

Plant out pea seedlings, keeping them in cardboard rolls (they don't like their roots disturbed). Make a [wigwam support](#) for them to grow up. Cover the cardboard rolls completely with soil/compost when you plant them out (otherwise they won't get enough moisture).

Plant out your broad bean seedlings, keeping them in cardboard rolls (they don't like their roots disturbed). Stake them with bamboo canes and tie loosely to stake to support the stem. Cover cardboard rolls with soil/compost when you plant them out (otherwise they won't get enough moisture).

Keep peas and broad beans watered every other day if dry.

Remember to add labels to rows.

Scatter carrot seeds in their own container/raised bed area and label. Keep watered and fed.

[How to sow carrots \(at ground level or in raised beds\).](#)

Weed in between your seedlings.

Spring

School/nursery indoors

February

Order seeds for sowing (speak to growing org first to see what they can provide):

Vegetables

Tomatoes, carrots, potato chits, peas, beetroot, broad beans, basil, Thai basil

Flowers/pollinating plants

Calendula, cornflower, marigold, cosmos, sunflowers

Suppliers

[Tamar Organics](#)
[Ethical Organic Seeds](#)
[Seeds of Scotland](#)

Move leek/onions to polytunnel/greenhouse/window sills when germinated. Keep watered.

March

Plant tomato seeds in pots/trays for your plant sale.

[How to grow tomatoes](#)

Keep them near a window.

Plant peas and broad beans (one per pot, about 2cm deep) in cardboard rolls/cardboard pots and keep indoors until about 5cm tall. Keep near a window if possible.

Plant beetroot in trays/small pots and germinate indoors.

[How to sow and grow beetroot.](#)

April

Plant sale project: Plant cosmos, nasturtium, calendula, sunflowers, basil seeds in trays or pots to germinate. For more seeds, you can add around 3-4 seeds per small pot or scatter in a shallow tray. When they are about 4-5cm high, put each one in its own pot. Remember to label to each pot so you know what's in there! Place near a windowsill with a tray to catch draining water. Water about twice per week.

[How to grow sunflowers from seed.](#)



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Community growing space

Sow extra leeks and onions for comparison (e.g. different varieties) with your partnership school. They can also be a backup for school/nursery beds if their planting fails.

Plan a visit from the school/nursery.

Sow extra peas and broad beans for comparison (e.g. different varieties) with your partnership school. They can also be a backup for school/nursery beds if their planting fails.

Do you have any herb plant cuttings or any extra seedlings to add to school/nursery beds or sell at the school/nursery plant sale?

Can you plant extra flower seeds for the plant sale, e.g. cosmos, basil, calendula, tomato, chilli?



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Spring

School community activities

February

Collect LOTS of cardboard rolls

March

Put an appeal out for families to grow extra seedlings for a plant sale later in the year.
(Tomatoes, chillis, basil, cosmos all work well).

April

Collect small 5-10cm plant pots or yogurt pots for planting on flower seedlings for the plant sale.

Summer

School/nursery raised beds or containers

May

Plant out your beetroot seedlings about 10cm apart, but don't worry too much if they are a bit cramped.

Keep your bed watered if no rain for more than 2 days.

Prune your cosmos seedlings so that they are encouraged to grow more side shoots and get bushier.

Keep the weeds at bay!

June

Harvest the garlic you planted in November.

Early in June, plant out some of your sunflowers, cosmos, nasturtium, calendula, chamomile seedlings in a selected area, as the risk of frost is over. You can sow them around 10cm apart. Select 3 or 4 sunflowers to plant, as they can be hungry and steal all the nutrients if there are too many! Sunflowers should go in the most sunny areas. Keep spare plants for the plant sale.

Water flower seedlings regularly - especially sunflowers. Add supports for sunflowers, such as a sturdy bamboo cane or large stick, loosely tied to the stem of the sunflower.

Make sure the grass and weeds don't invade the space around the flowers.

Can you harvest some of your beetroot?

July

Keep plants watered if possible. Set up a few [slow drip irrigators using plastic bottles](#) in each container for a slow drip watering system, which might prevent drying out.



Summer

May

June

July

School/nursery
indoors

N/A

Organising your plant sale - label all your plants, set your prices and make a big sign.

N/A

Community
growing space

Do an inventory of any spare seedlings that could be labelled and readied for the school/nursery plant sale in June.

Take your seedlings along to a plant sale at the school/nursery.

Can you arrange with the school/nursery to access the beds to harvest and water them?

School community
activities

Ask for donations of extra seedlings for your plant sale. Make sure you ask for each pot to have a label for the type of plant.

Do a mini bioblitz with support from RSPB's [Schools Wild Challenge](#).

N/A

Invite parents/carers to a PLANT SALE to raise money for growing eactivities next year!

Autumn

August

September

October

School/nursery
raised beds or
containers

Cut some of the flowers, especially calendula and cosmos as they will grow more!

Let flowers turn into seeds.

Harvest potatoes.

Leave flower stalks and other drying flowers in place (they are great habitats for insects who will lay eggs in the stalks).

School/nursery
indoors

[Press your flowers](#) using old books and newspaper/baking paper. In around 3 weeks you can use them to make collage Christmas tags or cards.

Gather calendula seeds and store in paper envelopes to plant next year.

N/A

Community
growing space

Share any harvests with your school/nursery partner.

Bring on some cuttings of sensory herbs such as lavender, rosemary etc. for you to share with your partner school/nursery in spring.

Contact your partner school/nursery to timetable a spring visit to your site.



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Autumn

August

September

October

School community activities

N/A

N/A

Gather lots of bags of leaves from trees and hedges (remember to leave some for the worms!) and place in sealed bin bags with holes at the bottom. Make sure you have permission from the landowner. Store outside.

Collect lots of plain cardboard from big boxes (tape and labels removed).

Collect some bricks/ big stones.

Winter

November

December

January

School/nursery raised beds or containers

Buy garlic from an online supplier such as Tamar Organics. Clear an area of your bed/ containers. Split the bulbs and plant them with the pointed end facing up, around 3cm deep. Remember to label your rows. Don't cover this area with cardboard.

Check raised beds/ large containers that are not planted with garlic if windy and re-cover with cardboard if necessary.

Check raised beds/ large containers if windy and recover with cardboard if necessary.

Lay any big stems from summer plants flat on the soil or trim them down at soil level (the roots can stay to nourish the soil). Use some of your collected leaves to scatter over your raised beds/ larger containers in a thin layer. Cover the raised bed with at least one layer of cardboard, overlapping and place lots of bricks and large stones over to protect the soil over winter.

Winter

School/nursery
raised beds or
containers

N/A

November

N/A

December

January

Sow onions by scattering in seed trays with compost. Lightly cover with compost and place in a warm area to germinate. Water when compost looks/feels dry. Remember to use trays with drainage holes and a tray/plate to collect drained water.

[How to grow onions.](#)

Community
growing space

N/A

N/A

Talk to your school/nursery and let them know what you want to plant this year. Can you provide seeds or give advice on growing e.g. pest control.

Agree a set date for supporting the spring/summer plant sale at the school/nursery.

School community
activities

N/A

Start collecting cleaned plastic yogurt/pudding pots of lots of sizes and foil roasting trays for seedlings. Pierce 2-3 drainage holes at the base of each one.

[Make lots of plant labels](#) from large yogurt pots (trim off sharp edges; make sure a teacher/ adult supervises with scissors).

Discuss when you could have a plant sale in June this year.



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