

RHS Yorkshire in Bloom



YORKSHIRE

Tips for School and Pre-school Gardening

- Use raised beds or containers. Consider unusual containers such as old tyres, wellington boots etc. Don't forget to make sure they have drainage holes.
- Grow flowers from seed. Choose seed that is easy to handle and easy to grow e.g. nasturtiums, pot marigold (Calendula), sunflower
- Be aware that some plants are potentially poisonous. Some guidance can be found below:



http://www.forestschoolandoutdoorlearning.co.uk/page_3110499.html

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?pid=524>

- Plant bulbs NB the outer layers of some bulbs are an irritant so always wear gloves when handling bulbs.
- Grow herbs e.g. oregano, thyme, mint
- Grow vegetables e.g. beans (broad, French or runner) nb - these are also available as miniature varieties suitable for small spaces or containers; courgettes; radishes; salad leaves; potatoes – these grow well in suitable sized containers or plastic 'potato bags'



- Grow fruit eg strawberries, raspberries (if you have space). Apples – buy a variety on a 'dwarfing' rootstock. This means it can be grown in a container or a small space.
- Compost your garden waste and fruit/vegetable leftovers

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?PID=321>

'GREENS'

- Tea bags
- Grass cuttings
- Vegetable peelings, salad leaves and fruit scraps

'BROWNS'

- Crushed egg shells
- Egg and cereal boxes

Old flowers and nettles

- Coffee grounds and filter paper

Spent bedding plants

- Rhubarb leaves
- Young annual weeds (e.g. chickweed)

Corrugated cardboard and newspaper (scrunched up)

- Toilet and kitchen roll tubes
- Garden prunings
- Dry leaves, twigs and hedge clippings
- Straw and hay
- Bedding from vegetarian pets
- Ashes from wood, paper and lumpwood charcoal
- Sawdust and wood chippings
- Wool

Woody clippings

- Cotton threads and string (made from natural fibre)
- Feathers
- Vacuum bag contents
- Old natural fibre clothes (cut into small pieces)
- Tissues, paper towels and napkins
- Shredded confidential documents
- Corn cobs and stalks



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- Create a themed miniature garden (pallet garden)
- Use plants to attract wildlife and bugs. Many plants and seeds are now labelled 'Perfect for Pollinators' or have a look at this list:

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/perfect-for-pollinators>



- Create living willow structures – e.g. tunnels, wigwams, or a living fence to enclose a quiet or storytelling area.



Yorkshire Agricultural Society run a range of free courses aimed at pre-school and primary school staff.

<http://yas.co.uk/charitable-activities/education-activities/courses-for-primary-school-staff>

RHS Garden Harlow Carr, Harrogate offer free school visits:

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/education-learning/gardening-children-schools/school-visits/school-visits-harlow-carr>



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The above are just a selection of tips.

For many more ideas and resources the websites below have a wealth of information on gardening with children, lesson plans, and using the school garden:

<https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/home>

<http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/schools>

<http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetectives/schools-and-groups/>

<https://www.opalexplorenature.org/schools>

If you are interested in the environment and sustainability issues the Eco-schools programme includes school grounds as one of its nine topics:

<http://www.eco-schools.org.uk/about-us/>

And if you are thinking of cooking with your produce:

<http://www.foodforlife.org.uk/schools>

