

Garden planning and growing

Preparing for the Autumn Term

Congratulations on your growing success and learning so far during the glorious summer term – now is the time to start preparing for growing and harvesting during the busy autumn term. We want to help you plan in order for you to reap the long-term benefits of food growing in your school by ensuring that it is a year round activity.

Grow Your Own Business

September is a great time for harvesting fruit, herbs, growing tomatoes and courgettes. With these crops, you can make chutneys, jams, relishes and so on. You could sell these as part of Grow Your Own Business to help fund your school garden. To get preparing in advance, check out our last Grow Your Own Business pack which has ideas, growing tips and curriculum links to help you plan a school garden enterprise project:

www.foodgrowingschools.org/get_involved/gyo_packs/

The challenge of managing your crops through the summer holidays

We know it can be a challenge keeping the school garden ticking over during the long summer holiday period. Most of the crops listed in this pack can be grown and harvested within the summer term, so if you are unable to take care of the garden over the holidays make sure you harvest before you go. Due to the unpredictable nature of our weather, aim to mulch all of your crops really well with a good 5cm layer of compost, bark mulch or well-rotted farmyard manure. This will help to retain the much needed moisture your crops need in the event of long sunny spells!

Consider setting up a watering/maintenance rota from within your school family. Involve parents, governors and local staff if you can. See pg 13 for information on recruiting volunteers to help you. If you know time in the school garden will be very limited over the summer think about growing a few root crops that require less watering such as carrots and parsnips – you'll have something to come back to in September. Mediterranean regional herbs such as Thyme, Rosemary, Sage and some Lavender won't mind a bit if they don't see your watering can during August and will be there for you to pick in the Autumn term.

Themed schools activities

Download our free themed activity packs to keep you school growing all year round! Each pack contains information on growing, cooking, working with your community and further learning resources around a particular theme.

All packs can be found here: www.foodgrowingschools.org/get_involved/gyo_packs/



Grow Around the World – Spring/ Summer

Learn how to Grow Your Own food - from Africa to the Caribbean, and India to East Asia and beyond. Then cook and share your delicious home-grown cuisine with your friends, school and community.



Spring Into Growing- Spring term

Start the new year afresh with a school garden fit for growing healthy food, learning skills and sharing knowledge, whatever the size or space. With our expert guidance, learn the secrets to planning and constructing your school garden.



Grow Your Own Picnic – Summer

A celebration of summer, sunshine and food growing in your school playground. Then share a delicious home-grown lunch with your friends, school and community – on your very own Picnic Day!



Grow Your Own Business - Autumn/ Winter

With our expert guidance, learn the secrets to starting your own school food growing business, raising money for your school garden,

developing employment skills and selling healthy, home-grown food in your local community.

