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grow



My Garden Planner

This planner will help you plan your crop
to enter **Ready Steady Grow** 2025.

With step by step plans, it'll help you
to grow flowers, vegetables and herbs
to suit the space available to you and
minimise waste.



Step 1: Set your gardening goals

The first step in creating your garden is to set your gardening goals. Your goals should be set around the competition judging criteria and the reasons why you are entering.

Example goals:

- Enter **The great Garden Challenge** category by creating a space which attracts wildlife so I can help the environment as well as enjoying seeing the creatures in my garden.
- Enter the **The great Garden Challenge** category so I can attract wildlife and practice my wildlife photography.
- Enter the **Wholesome Harvest** category to grow a range of herbs and vegetables for the first time.
- Enter the **Wholesome Harvest** category to make a meal for my partner with the produce grown.



Step 2: Find inspiration and research

Now you know what you would like to achieve, it's time to think about how you will achieve it.

How much space do I have and what can I do with it?

If you don't have a vegetable or flower patch in your garden, ask staff if you can create one, if you think there's space. If you don't have a communal garden, do some research and see if there are local allotments you can rent and share with other residents.

Notes...

What have other people done?

Take a look online and see how other people have kitchen gardens in small spaces or if there are any ideas and themes you like to try or experiment with. See what's recommended in gardening magazines, recipes books and websites. Watch nature programmes to see how wildlife are attracted to gardens.

Think about the support you may need from staff to reach your goal and before you do any planning run your ideas past them to see if they think can actually help.

Notes...



What support and advice do I need?

Think about the support you need to transform and look after your garden.. Have you heard about a local gardening group, or would like advice from the experts in a nearby garden center. Maybe you haven't found enough inspiration online or in your Resident Information Pack, but you (or a member of staff on your behalf) could contact a local plant shop, garden center or gardening society. Being mindful of the current social distancing requirements, perhaps the local gardening society could do an online talk for your service or offer advice by email.

Notes...

What equipment do I need?

Think about the equipment you need to grow and cook your crop. If you don't have any gardening equipment, do you need to speak to staff about this and ask them if they can source it for you. If others are taking part in the completion they may be able to apply for funding, discounts or donations for gardening tools that can be used by everyone at the service.

Notes...



Step 3: Pick your type of garden

What type of garden will you be growing your produce in?

- ☐ Flat-earth garden
- ☐ Raised bed garden
- ☐ Container garden

For flat-earth gardens, raised beds and large containers:

Record the available dimensions of your garden (length, width)

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Calculate the total square metres of growing space available to you

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For small container gardens:

Count the number of containers you have or plan to have, as well as notes on the dimensions/sizes of the contains. Add any unusual containers that you'd like to create, or brainstorm ideas on how to reuse items you already own to make your garden more eco-friendly. Write the amounts down:

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Step 4: Choose your plants

Choose your crop by thinking about your gardening goals, considering the inspiration and advice you've received and the equipment and support available to you.

You can grow your flowers, vegetables, herbs or fruit from seed or buy them as small plants ready for planting.

Use the below to create your shopping list. Remember to use your research and your calculation in Step 4 to think about how many plants of each variety you can grow. You can work this out using the notes pages at the back of this planer.

[illegible]

Step 5: Draw your garden layout

Create a plan and map out how you will plan your garden:

- Set a reasonable scale for the map grid below and record your scale.
- Create a Key by assigning a colour to each crop (use pencil crayons or felt-tip pens).
- Draw the perimeter of your garden or sketch out the outline of containers.
- Pencil in sunny and shady areas, and the general path of the sun.
- Read the seed packet or advice on each crop to learn about their environmental conditions.
- Choose where each crop will go based on it's preferences with environmental conditions.
- For each crop, label and draw the required area colouring them in according to your key.
- Draw rows or dots for each plant you intend to grow.

Scale:

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Key:

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[illegible]

Step 6: Create your gardening schedule

This is the final step in planning your garden. Complete the schedule on the following pages with when to plan each plant, as well as when if you need to harvest any crop.

Use the information on seed packets or from the Ready Steady Grow resources.

The schedule has a notes section where you can write down for instance if something went wrong and why so that if you re-plant your plants the same problem doesn't happen again.

Each column in the table should be filled in with one crop – write the type of plant in the top box, and then fill in the details about that plant in the boxes below the name.

Notes...

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Plant					
Variety					
Seed Vendor					
Indoor Seed Planting Date					
Outdoor Planting Date					
Harvest Date (if applicable)					
Container					
Notes					

Crop					
Variety					
Seed Vendor					
Indoor Seed Planting Date					
Outdoor Planting Date					
Estimated Harvest Date					
Yield					
Repeat table above					

[illegible]