

Grow a pizza wheel

Grow your own pizza toppings



Here's what you'll need!

Shopping list for your local garden centre:

Seeds or very young plants for the pizza toppings you want to grow

Multi-purpose compost

Plant food

A spade or trowel

A watering can

Stones or bricks to mark out your pizza wheel

Instructions:

1. Make a circle on the ground where you want your pizza wheel to go. Use your stones or bricks. Or you could use a big container instead.
2. Dig up the ground in your circle really well and mix in your compost. Rake it over so it's level.
3. Give the soil a good stamp down to get rid of any air bubbles in it, and then rake it over again.
4. Divide your circle into four or five pizza slices using more of your stones or bricks.
5. Pick a pizza topping you want to grow in each of your pizza slices. Some good ones are basil, rocket, spinach, rainbow chard, tomatoes or peppers.
6. Sow the seeds or plant your very young plants in your pizza wheel and water them.
7. If it's cold, try sowing the seeds in a pot with some compost. Keep the pot indoors and water it until the plants start to grow. When the plants are about as big as your thumb try planting them out into your pizza wheel.
8. In a few weeks you should start to see them come up and you can then start putting your plants on your pizzas!



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Heads gone wild

Grow yourself some crazy green hair



Here's what you'll need!

Shopping list for your local garden centre:

Some pots or containers

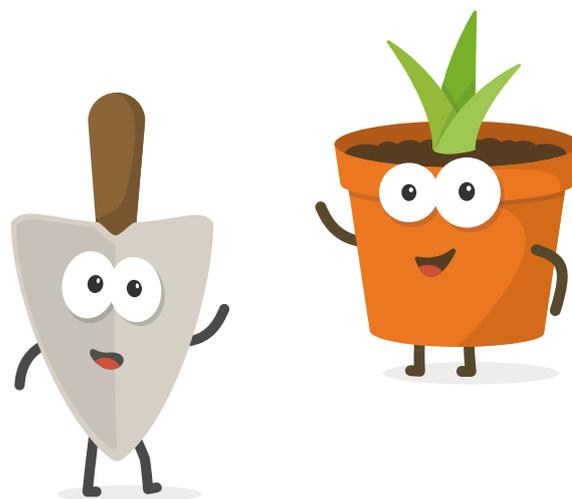
Some grass or cress seeds (or other plants like salad that you want to see grow out of your heads!)

Some multi-purpose compost

Stickers, glue, pens, or glitter to make faces on your pots

Instructions:

1. Draw or paint some faces onto your pot. Or glue a photo of you or your friend's face onto the pot. Make sure your faces don't have any hair on the top of them.
2. Fill your pots with the compost.
3. Put the seeds into compost.
4. Water the seeds. Be careful not to get water onto the faces on the pot!
5. Make sure the soil stays wet, and watch as crazy green hair grows out of your head. When it's long enough, try giving it a hair cut!



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Bamboo tipi

Grow a den made of bean plants



Here's what you'll need!

Shopping list for your local garden centre:

Some bamboo canes
Some garden string
Runner bean seeds or young plants
A trowel
Multipurpose compost
Watering can

Instructions:

1. Find a spot in the garden where you want to grow your tipi.
2. Mark out a circle (it can help to use sand). This is where you want the edge of your tipi to be.
3. Push the bamboo canes into the soil leaving about 10 to 20cm between each cane. Leave a 50 cm gap between two of the canes for the way in to your tipi.
4. Tie the canes together using the garden string at the top. You might need a tall grown up to help!
5. Near the bottom of each cane, dig a little planting hole and fill it with some compost.
6. Plant a runner bean seed or young plant in each of the planting holes. There are lots of types of bean so have fun choosing. If you are using seeds, use two in each planting hole in case one doesn't sprout.
7. When you're done, give them a good water. Runner beans like water so give them plenty as they grow.
8. Your beans will grow over your canes and make a tipi. You can use it as a den, and pick, cook and eat the beans that grow.



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Grow garden chairs

Natural furniture for a barbecue or garden party



Here's what you'll need!

Shopping list for your local garden centre:

Bags of topsoil
Some strips of turf
Trowel or spade
Garden shears

Instructions:

1. Make a pile of top soil like the one in the picture for each chair you want to grow. The lower bit of the pile is for sitting on. The higher bit of the pile is for resting your back against.
2. When the piles are the shaped how you want them, cover them with the strips of turf. You might need to cut the turf into shape with a trowel or spade to do this.
3. When the piles of soil are covered with turf, pin the turf in place with tent pegs or sticks so it doesn't fall off.
4. In a few weeks the turf will grow roots into the piles of soil and be stuck. When it has, you can take the tent pegs or sticks away. Your garden furniture is ready to use at a barbecue or garden party!
5. Over the summer you can use garden shears to keep the grass on your furniture short.



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Garden party for Greenfingers charity

Support this wonderful charity with your own garden party!



Here's what you'll need!

Shopping list for your local garden centre:

Seeds or young plants for the salad or herbs you're going to bring to the party

Some compost

Some containers or pots to grow your plants

Watering can

National Children's Gardening Week stickers

About Greenfingers

Established in 1999, Greenfingers Charity (Reg. charity no. 1076640) is dedicated to creating magical and inspiring outdoor spaces for life limited children, and their families, who spend time in hospices across the UK. To date the charity has created dozens of gardens but still has a waiting list of hospices that need their help. By supporting Greenfingers Charity during National Children's Gardening Week, you will be helping to bring the precious gift of a garden to more children and their families.

Instructions:

1. Agree what date your party will be on and where it will be. You could have it in National Children's Gardening Week, or later in the summer. Agree who's going to grow what for the party. Salads, and leafy vegetables like Swiss chard can be ready in time for National Children's Gardening Week. You could also grow some tasty herbs like basil, mint or lemon verbena.
2. About eight weeks before your party, get your plants, seeds, pots and compost from the garden centre. Fill your containers and pots with compost. Put your seeds or young plants in the pots and give them a good water.
3. Put your pots somewhere where they'll get some good sun and keep them watered. If you don't have a garden you can put them on a balcony, windowsill or doorstep.
4. On party day, bring your plants and have fun picking them. Eat the salads with a barbecue or pizza, or try chopping herbs into drinks or a fruit salad. Don't forget to give out National Children's Gardening Week stickers to everyone.
5. If you've done any of the other National Children's Gardening Week projects like growing your own garden chairs or growing a pizza wheel you can have some fun with these at your party too!
6. You can support Greenfingers charity by having a collection for them at your party; ask your mum or dad to donate the collection on their web site www.justgiving.com/greenfingers. Even if you can't have a collection, you can still support Greenfingers by asking your parents to 'like' their Facebook page www.facebook.com/Greenfingerscharity



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Write your name in salad

Enjoy a personal touch at tea time



Here's what you'll need!

Shopping list for your local garden centre:

A seed tray (or other pot/container)

Small bag of multi-purpose compost

Salad seeds (try rocket seeds and purple basil/lettuce seeds)

A watering can with a rose (sprinkler) in the spout

Instructions:

1. Fill your seed tray(s) or pot/container(s) with compost.
2. Lightly press down the compost so it's firm in the tray.
3. Mark out your name in the compost either using sand or by writing your name into it with a stick.
4. Sow the rocket seeds along the letters of your name in the compost.
5. Next, sow a border around the name using the purple basil or purple lettuce seeds. Leave about 5cm between the letters of your name and the border.
6. Sieve or sprinkle fine soil or compost over the seeds. Be gentle so you don't move the seeds.
7. Water your tray using the watering can. Be gentle and make sure the watering can has a rose (sprinkler) in the spout so you don't wash the seeds out of place.
8. Put the seed tray on your window sill or outside in your garden or balcony. Clip your name as it grows and enjoy eating it!



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Make a robot composter

Robots reign in the garden!



Here's what you'll need!

Shopping list for your local garden centre:

A compost bin

Things to decorate your robot (paint, glitter, plant pots and plants, half tennis balls, old CDs, bottles – use your imagination!)

A clear piece of perspex or a plastic greenhouse panel/pane



Instructions:

1. The compost bin will be the body of your robot composter. Decide where you want your robot to be in your garden and put it there.
2. Decorate the body of your robot. Go wild! Try sticking things to it to make it as funky as possible.
3. Make sure that you can still open the top of your robot composter. If you can't, then you won't be able to make any compost!
4. If you want to see the stuff you put into your robot turning into compost, you can cut a hole in the side of your composter. Cover the hole with a clear piece of perspex to make a window in the robot's body. A greenhouse pane or panel is ideal for this.
5. When you're done, take a photo of your robot and email it to ncgw@hta.org.uk saying who you are and the town you live in. We'd love to see it and maybe share it on our web site to the whole country.
6. To make compost in your robot, put a mix of live (grass clippings, leaves, weeds, fruit and veg waste) and dead (paper, cardboard, wood shavings or sawdust) into the robot. It will rot down and turn into compost to use in your garden.

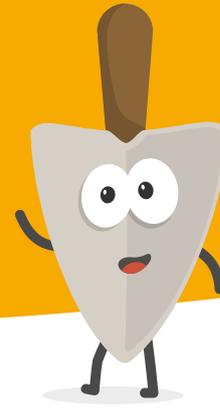


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Grow an edible hanging basket

Grow tasty, tumbling food for your family



Here's what you'll need!

Shopping list for your local garden centre:

A wire hanging basket

Sphagnum moss planter liner, or sisal

Multipurpose compost

Plant food or fertiliser

A hook or wall bracket and screws to hang your basket

Plants: choose from: tumbling cherry tomatoes, strawberry plants, chives, basil, or parsley, lettuce, and trailing nasturtiums

Instructions:

1. Line your basket with the sphagnum moss or sisal.
2. Fill the basket you've lined with the compost.
3. Put your plants into the compost in your basket. You can do this in the basket, and by poking holes through the sides of the basket and planting your plants through these holes. Make sure you take your plants out of any little pots or packaging they were sold in before you plant them in your basket.
4. Water your basket well and make sure the plants are firmly in place.
5. Hang the basket from your hook or wall bracket. Make sure you get an adult to put up the hook or wall bracket for you.
6. Check your basket every day. Make sure the compost stays wet and give it some plant food about once a week.
7. As your basket grows treat it like a pet – feed it and water it well and it'll give you lots of tasty food over the summer!



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The recycled garden

From old junk to an incredible garden display!



Here's what you'll need!

Shopping list for your local garden centre:

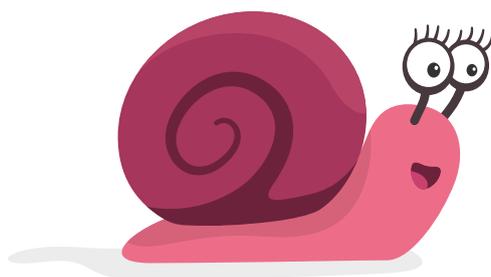
Multipurpose compost

Seeds or plants (choose flowering ones that say on the label, pot or pack that they are good for containers)

Plant food

Instructions:

1. Find some old junk around the home that's going to go to waste. It might be an old pair of wellies, some old furniture, or anything that you can put some compost into. Make sure you check with an adult that it's OK to use first though.
2. Make a few small holes in the bottom of the junk you want to grow your plants in. This is so that water can drain out of the bottom and your plants don't drown. Fill up your junk with compost.
3. Plant the seeds or plants into the compost and give it a good water. Feed them about once a week with the plant food.
4. Arrange all your junk into a funky display on your balcony or in your garden, and watch plants grow out of it!



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