

Plants - Health and Safety

Plants
When using garden soil, check for broken glass and that it is taken from a site unlikely to be contaminated with animal faeces.
Teach children not to touch their eyes when handling plants.
Teach children not to taste any part of a plant unless they are 100% sure it is safe to do so.
Warn children that attractive looking fruits, seeds and berries can be poisonous.
Check whether seeds have been treated with pesticides. If they have, children should never eat these. (Check packets carefully!)
Always wash hands after handling plants, seeds or soil.
Wear gardening or disposable gloves when working with plants known to be an irritant.

Which plants to use or not?
Begonia, busy Lizzies, coleus, fuchsia, garden herbs, geraniums, mother-of-thousands, rubber plant, spider plant, swiss cheese plant (others are also suitable, these are just examples).
Interesting plants: bromeliads, cacti, succulents, carnivorous plants.
Good for seed growth: barley, broad beans, cress, dwarf bean, grass, maize, mung bean, mustard, oat, pea, radish, runner beans, sunflower, wheat.
Edible seeds and 'pips' including: avocado, date, lemon, mango, orange. Avoid leaves and stalks of potatoes and tomatoes, green parts of potatoes, rhubarb leaves and chilli plants.
Poisonous plants not to be used: black nightshade, castor oil seeds, henbane, holly, laburnum, privet, ragwort, black bryony, hemlock, deadly nightshade, red kidney beans, rowan seeds, spindle tree, yew, white bryony, woody nightshade, cuckoo pint.
Irritants: stinging nettles, primrose family plants, goose grass (cleavers), giant hogweed (and other member of the umbelliferae family), bulbs and corms or the lily family (such as hyacinth, bluebell and tulip).
Asthma triggers: grasses, catkins and other plants - avoid inside the classroom.

Plants Language Mat (KS1)

Year 1	
buds	the part of a plant that grows up and holds the plant together
bulbs	bulbs store food for a plant and help it to grow
trunk	the main part of a tree that grows from the ground to make it sturdy
wild plant	doesn't grow in our gardens and are self-seeded
rose	grows in lots of different colours with multiple layers of petals
buttercup	plant with bright yellow cup-shaped flowers; common in grass and as a weed
daisy	wild flower which is white and grows in spring
petals	a petal is a part of the flower and is usually coloured to attract insects
branches	come from the tree trunk and grow outwards
root	the part of a plant or tree that grows underground to keep it upright and helps the plant get what it needs
stem	main part of a plant that grows from the ground to make it sturdy & to carry water
sunflower	a tall plant that grows in our gardens in the summer and has yellow petals

Year 2	
crown	the crown is made up of the leaves and branches at the top of the tree.
deciduous	deciduous trees are trees that shed their leaves in the Autumn and grow new leaves in the spring.
evergreen	evergreen trees are the same as coniferous trees. They do not lose their leaves in Autumn.
woodland	a woodland is a habitat where trees are the dominant plant form.
habitat	the place where a plant or animal (mostly) lives. There are different kinds of habitats, such as grassland, forest, river, sea and desert.
oxygen	Oxygen is used by animals and plants in the respiration (breathing) process.
reproduce	to make a new version of something.
germinate	The process of growing from a seed or spore
lifecycle	The series of changes in the life of an organism including reproduction

Plants Knowledge Organiser (Y1) *Also see language mat

Key Knowledge

Name a variety of common wild and garden plants in the UK (at least 6). (Buddleia, hollyhocks,).

That some trees shed their leaves and some keep their leaves all year around.

Name different types of UK tree (at least 6) – including deciduous and evergreen. Trees at Northfields – Hazel, Elder, Willow, Field Maple, Ash, Apple, Pear, Plum. Find a Oak tree outside of school grounds.

Most common plants have stems, flowers, leaves and roots and describes where they are on a plant without a picture in front of them.

Most trees have roots, a trunk, branches, twigs and leaves.

Know some plants which grow in Letchworth.

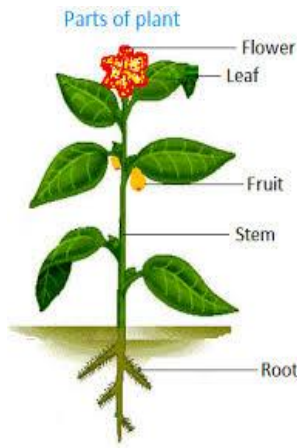
Know that some plants grow fruit & vegetables (over 2000 plants do this).

Some plants/trees cause allergic reactions or grow fruits that are poisonous.



Linked careers

Botanist, arborist, conservationist, environmental scientist, plant geneticist, soil scientist, gardener.



Ongoing assessment

Match these plants to their names.

Can you match these trees to their names?

Which of these objects (including fruit/vegetables) grow on trees?

What harm can plants cause to humans?

Enquiry types

Research: What are the most common British plants and where can we find them?

Identifying/classifying: How can we sort the leaves that we collected on our walk?

Changing ideas over time: 500 years ago, tobacco plants were grown in Britain for medicine. How have our ideas about these plants changed?

Comparative testing: Which type of compost grows the tallest sunflower?

Observation over time: How does my sunflower change each week?

Pattern seeking: Do trees with bigger leaves lose their leaves first in autumn?

Famous figures

Beatrix Potter
(botanist)

Alan Titchmarsh
(gardener)

Plants Knowledge Organiser (Y2) *Also see language mat

Key Knowledge

Seeds and bulbs grow into plants.

Plants need water, light and a suitable temperature to grow and stay healthy.

As a tree grows, it usually produces growth rings which tell us how old it is.

Describe how seeds and bulbs grow. (Do not need to know the word germination).

Mature plants have seeds and seeds make more plants.

Trees can live for a very long time. The oldest known tree is over 5000 years old.

Name plants which grow from seeds and ones which grow from bulbs.

Explains importance of healthy plants – e.g. good fruit crops.

Famous Figures

Capability Brown (gardener)

Agnes Arber (botanist)

Linked careers

Botanist, arborist, gardener
conservationist, environmental
scientist, plant geneticist, soil
scientist.



Ongoing assessment

Is this plant healthy? How do you know?

How do we get new plants?

Do all seeds and bulbs look the same?

Draw a picture of a seed or bulb?

Enquiry types

Research: How do plants grow in the water?

Identifying/classifying: How can we identify the trees that we found on our tree hunt?

Changing ideas over time: How did George Washington Carver improve farming?

Comparative testing: Do seeds grow quicker inside or outside?

Observation over time: What happens to my seed/bulb after it is planted?

Pattern seeking: Do bigger seeds grow bigger plants?

