

SCIENCE learning springboards



Growing plants to use in cooking, sensory projects and crafts

Getting started: sources of support for growing plants in school grounds

Aim: All pupils benefit from the excitement of seeing a plant grow from seed and eating or using the produce too.

Whether you have a full-scale allotment, a few pots or places to grow plants indoors, you can bring the living world into the curriculum.

Outdoors: the simplest vegetables to grow with pupils are broad beans in spring for summer harvest – and then food chain investigations when ladybirds and their larvae are busy eating aphids that colonise the broad bean plants.

Indoors: peas for salads can be grown all year round.

Strawberries are a straightforward fruit to grow and will grow outdoors or on a sunny windowsill or in a hanging basket, but also make space for easy perennial fruit such as raspberries and blackberries so the pupils can 'forage' for food around the grounds and use it in cooking.

Many of the *Pappus* Learning Springboards include growing activities, or activities that grow or use fruit and vegetables. Explore these:

Creative Arts Learning Springboards:

- Vegetable orchestra
- Arcimboldo

Design Technology Learning Springboards:

- Hydroponics
- Growing a key-hole garden
- Edible flowers
- Food technology
- Cooking with plants
- Grow your own craft resources

History Learning Springboards:

- Forage plants

Literacy Learning Springboards:

- Seed packet literacy

Maths Learning Springboards:

- Broad bean data handling

PSHE Learning Springboards:

- Reap what you sow

Science Learning Springboards:

- Propagation
- Dissection of a broad bean



Resources:

In England, the RHS Campaign for School Gardening is the most useful, authoritative resource for teachers to help them to integrate plants into the curriculum.

Growing can be very straightforward, inside or outside and there is a great deal of support on the internet. The RHS Campaign for School Gardening website is a font of knowledge, advice and seasonal lesson plans for all ages.



RHS school gardening

You will also have adults in your wider school community who are keen allotment growers or home gardeners. Find out if anyone is willing to give some of their time to support your school growing activities and/or run an after school growing club.

Key vocabulary: unlimited!

Success criteria:

- ✓ Fun
- ✓ Engagement
- ✓ Agency
- ✓ Understanding the natural world and our human place within it

