

Curriculum Progression for Gardening

Strand	EYFS	KS1	KS2
Knowledge & Understanding of Plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explores soil, seeds, plants and natural materials • Learns basic plant needs: sun, soil, water • Notices growth, change and seasonal patterns • Recognises simple garden produce • Notices decay and breaking down of plants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands plant life cycles: seed → plant → seed • Knows parts of a plant and their functions • Identifies common garden plants and weeds • Understands pollination in simple terms • Recognise some seasonal changes in the plants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explains plant biology (roots, photosynthesis, reproduction) • Understands ecosystems and plant–animal interactions • Identifies a wide range of crops, herbs, ornamentals • Understands soil health, nutrients & compost
Practical Gardening Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waters plants with guidance • Digs, rakes, fills pots, and handles soil safely • Sows large or easy-to-handle seeds • Harvests simple crops gently 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plants seeds and seedlings independently • Uses hand tools safely • Learns basic weeding and deadheading • Follows simple routines for plant care • Cleans tools, wheelbarrows, pots • Understands that we need to tidy and maintain walk ways so we can move around safely 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses a full garden toolset • Plans and maintains dedicated beds or allotments • Harvests, processes & records yields • Demonstrates pruning, propagation, spacing techniques
Environmental Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begins caring for living things • Learns gentle handling of plants and minibeasts • Understands simple concepts like (don't overwater, don't waste compost, stick to the paths) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sorts organic waste for composting • Understands why saving water matters • Learns how gardens support wildlife • Learns about hibernation • Learns that a pond has life forms and needs to be treated respectfully 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manages composting systems • Makes sustainable growing decisions • Creates or maintains wildlife habitats • Feeds wildlife appropriately with the correct food • Offers suggestions about how to help the garden conserve its wildlife • Helps to build small constructions to house wildlife
Scientific & Mathematical Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counts seeds, leaves, plants, steps, pots • Experiments with water and mud feeling textures of soil, water, seeds • Uses descriptive language (big, small, tall, wet, dry) • Notices growth over time, decaying and mouldy plants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures plant growth with tools • Records planting and growth in charts • Compares growth in different conditions • Can estimate how much soil is needed to fill pots • Can measure how much string needed for tying up plants • Starts to understand how to space seeds / seedlings • Notices changes in soil in each season • Understands the difference between shade/sun loving plants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designs simple tests to determine best living conditions for flora and fauna • Records and interprets data accurately • Draws conclusions about plant health • Can read seed packets and work out where and when we should sow / plant • Can measure accurately, when constructing anything for the garden • Starts to understand litre measurements when conversing about soil and pots • Can think about how deep the pond is and why it may need to be a certain depth • Counts and weighs produce after harvesting • Understands when to harvest eg not picking fruit and vegetables before being ripe
Teamwork, Wellbeing & Personal Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works alongside peers supporting each others tasks • Builds confidence through hands-on success • Enjoys sensory outdoor experiences • Shows joy and excitement about aspects of the garden and wildlife in it • Can listen to instructions for jobs to do in the garden 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Takes responsibility for garden tasks • Works cooperatively in groups • Shows pride in caring for plants • Will offer peers support and encouragement completing tasks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can follow 2 - 4 part instructions from gardening lead • Leads gardening tasks or small teams • Builds resilience through long-term projects • Shows independence and problem-solving outdoors • Shows respect and kindness to others when they achieve their personal goals in the garden • Can set personal tasks for themselves and see it through to the end • Shows a patience and tolerance when tasks do not work out as first thought
Key words	earth, ground, seeds, grow, plant, garden, outside, big, small, tall, wet, wet dry, minibeasts, seed, root, petal, soil, grass, log, worm, beetle, spider, ladybird, caterpillar, butterfly, ant, snail, slug, bee, sun, rain, wind, cloudy, shade, warm, cold, spring, summer, autumn, winter, pots, digger, watering can, tap	root, stem, leaf, leaves, flower, seed, bulb, shoot, bud, fruit, petals, trunk, water, sunlight, air, soil, space, warmth, nutrients, grow, growth, germinate, life cycle, wild, plant, garden plant, evergreen, deciduous, shrub, tree sunny, cloudy, rainy, windy, shade, temperature, season (spring, summer, autumn, winter), worm, bee, butterfly, caterpillar, ladybird, beetle, spider, slug, snail, habitat, pollinator, vegetable, herb, flower, trowel, spade, rake, fork, hoe, watering can, wheelbarrow, gloves, secateurs	photosynthesis, chlorophyll, pollination, fertilisation, germination, reproduction (in plants), dispersal (seed dispersal), nutrients, transpiration, evaporation, carbon dioxide, oxygen, lifecycle roots (taproot, fibrous roots), stem, leaves (blades, veins), flower, stamen, pistil / carpel, anther, filament, stigma, style, ovary, petals / sepals, trowel, hand fork, hoe, spade, rake, cultivator, compost bin, watering can, irrigation, greenhouse, raised bed, mulch, wheelbarrow, secateurs (adult-use), propagate, compost, organic matter, fertiliser, soil types (clay, sandy, loam), pH level, germination rate, harvest, crop, rotation, perennial, annual, biennial, seedling, cutting, transplant, pollinator, habitat, ecosystem, predator, prey, decomposer, wormery, biodiversity, food chain, microhabitat, temperature, humidity, rainfall, drought, climate, frost, sunlight intensity, shade tolerance, seasonal changes, observe, measure, record, compare, classify, identify, estimate, investigate, experiment, evaluate