

Moving plants from classroom to Garden

Time of Year

April to June.

Aim

To plant out vegetables, flowers & herbs which have been sown in the classroom.

Cross Curriculum Relevance

SESE:	Living things, environmental awareness & care, recording, observing.
Maths:	Measuring, counting, estimating, recording, active learning.
Literacy:	Writing, spelling.
Art:	Drawing map of rotations, making signs.
Informal Curriculum:	Food Dudes, Healthy Eating, Discover Primary Science.



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Resources needed

Plants that have been sown in the classroom, spades, forks, hand trowels, gloves, peat-free or home-made compost / well rotted manure, lollipop sticks, willow or bamboo for plant supports, string, labels, plastic bottles cut in half, signs for each vegetable.

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Ideas for Research projects

Maths – Measure and keep a record of the rate of growth of various plants.

SESE – Research how peas & beans grow up plant supports.

Local Heritage – Research about old varieties of vegetables that can be grown.

Art/Communications – make signs for the vegetables, draw a plan of the outdoor beds for the notice board.

Water Harvesting – collect rain water for the vegetable garden from water collectors.

Research Words: **HARDEN-OFF, TRANSPLANT, COLD-FRAME, INTERPLANT, TENDRILS**

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Notes

- Begin to 'harden off' the young plants that have been seeded in the classroom in April to early May. Hardening off means that you bring the plants outside in the morning & bring them back in before school closes. Do this for a week or two to acclimatise them to the outdoors.
- Ideally harden the plants off in a 'cold-frame' in April and May. This saves bringing them in and out every day.
- Start planting out the young plants from April to June, depending on the weather. Wait until May if there is still frost or cold weather.
- Cover the young plants with plastic bottles or netting or fleece if there is going to be frost.
- Be very gentle with your plant seedlings. Most casualties happen when taking the plant out of the pot and putting it into the ground. Demonstrate to your class how to take the seedlings carefully out of the pots and plant them into the ground.
- Seeds that have been sown in biodegradable pots or toilet roll inserts can be planted in their containers as these will rot in the soil
- Keep a record of planting by drawing a map of the vegetable beds in your garden diary and displaying it on the school notice board.



Moving plants from classroom to Garden contd.

Health & Safety

Stay with your group. Use tools safely. Wash hands after garden session. Please refer to the worksheet on Health & Safety for detailed information.

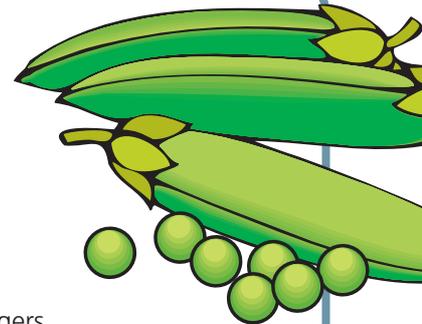


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How to plant out your vegetable seedlings

Peas

- Prepare the bed by either removing the black plastic mulch or digging out any weeds.
- Add some compost, seaweed or well-rotted manure.
- Mark rows with sticks, spacing 15cm between rows.
- Dig a small hole with your trowel and mix in a handful of compost.
- Remove plant from pot and place plant it in the hole.
- Make a pea fence (plant support) using willow or bamboo to support the growing fingers or 'tendrils'. Peas like to grow up fences.
- Tie the growing stems loosely to the plant support as it grows in height.



Mixed salads & lettuces

- Repeat steps 1-4 as above – spacing is 15-25cm between plants and 30cm between rows.
- They can be also interplanted between other vegetables such as onions and garlic
- Place half a plastic bottle over the plant to protect from slugs when starting off.

Sunflowers

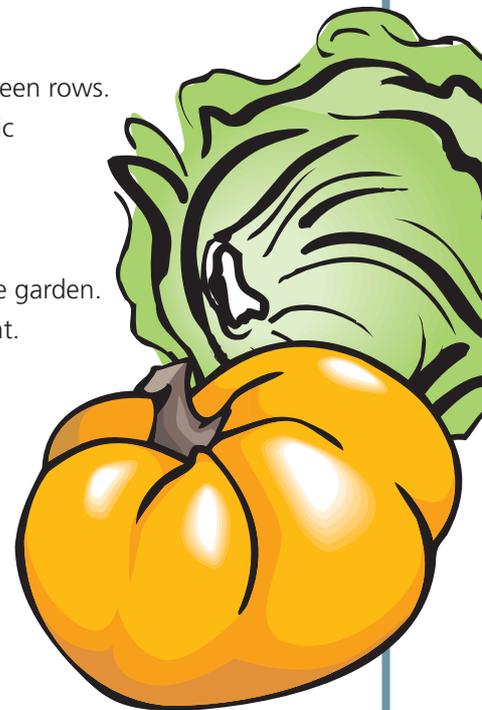
- Repeat steps 1-4 as above. The sunflower can be planted in different parts of the garden.
- Plant in a sunny spot, stake the sunflower when they get to 600 – 900mm height.

Pumpkins

- Repeat steps 1-4 as above, change the spacing to 1 metre apart.
- They need a lot of space to grow and can be grown up fences.

Broad and Runner Beans

- Repeat steps 1-4 as above, but the spacing varies according to the type of bean.
- Broad beans are planted 15-20cm between plants and 60-90cm between rows.
- Broad beans need to be supported by upright sticks and twine.
- Runner beans are planted 15-25cm between plants and 60-90cm between rows.
- Runner Beans can grow up poles or fences. They can be planted in rows or circles and will need the support of a fence or teepee.



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How to plant out your vegetable seedlings contd.

Tomatoes

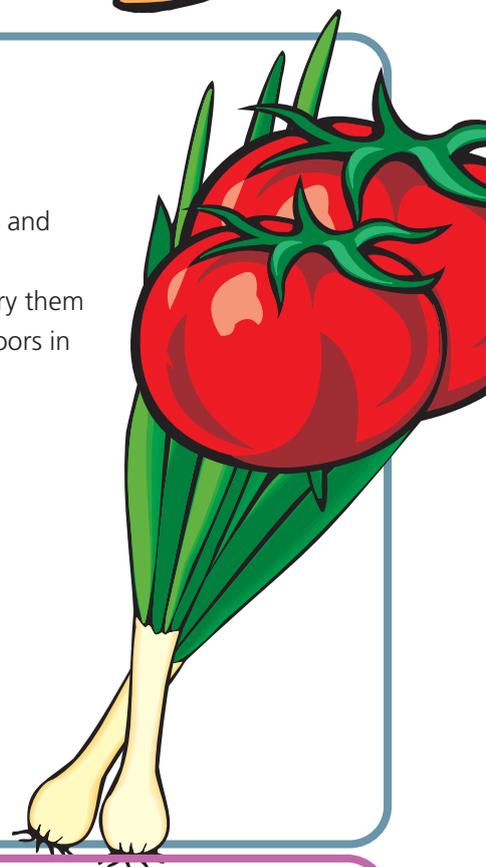
- There are tall growing & dwarf/bush varieties.
- Repeat steps 1-4 as above, but the spacing changes to 30-40cm between plants and 60-90cm between rows if they are tall varieties.
- They will grow better indoors, in a large pot in a sunny spot, or in a tunnel but try them in the outdoor beds too (Old Sod variety from Irish Seed Savers grows well outdoors in sheltered gardens).
- They will need to be supported by a cane and twine.

Spinach

- Repeat steps 1-4 as above, but the spacing changes to 15-30cm between plants and 30cm between rows.

Spring onions (scallions)

- Repeat steps 1-4 as above, but the spacing changes to 15cm between plants and 30cm between rows.
- They can be planted between lettuces or spinach plants.



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How to plant out herbs & flowers sown in the classroom

- Begin to 'harden off' your young herbs or flowers in later April/early May.
- Mark off area that is to be planted – make a raised bed as instructed on raised bed worksheet. This could be done in a central bed in the vegetable garden or in another part of the school grounds.
- Place the pots where they are to be planted.
- The children (working in pairs) can dig a hole bigger than the pot.
- Add compost or grit to the hole and mix it with the soil.
- Take the plant carefully out of the pot and place in the hole.
- Backfill with the soil and press it in gently and water the herbs.
- When they are planted, mulch with myopex or black plastic. Then cover this with bark mulch. This will help control weeds.
- Label all of the herbs. Make signs and draw a map for the school notice board.



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