



School Gardening
Resources

PRIMARY LEVEL

BORD BIA
IRISH FOOD BOARD

Urban Gardening

Small Spaces





Time of Year

This can be carried out at any time of the year (preferably Sept to March).

Aim

To grow vegetables in small spaces when there is no grass or little space for a bigger garden.

Cross Curriculum Relevance

SESE: Living things, environmental awareness & care

Maths: Measuring, counting, estimating, recording, active learning

Literacy: Writing, spelling

Art: Making signs, painting containers

Informal Curriculum: Food Dudes, Healthy Eating, Discover Primary Science



1 Notes

- ★ Concrete areas may be more sheltered and warmer and so can grow more exotic plant varieties.
- ★ Plants grown in containers will need more care and more watering.



2 Ideas for garden projects

- ★ Raised beds
- ★ Hanging baskets
- ★ Living walls
- ★ Pots and containers (barrels, baths, washing machine drums, boots etc)
- ★ Roof gardens
- ★ Fruit tree fans and espaliers (against walls)
- ★ Hanging plants and climbing plants



3 Example projects

Raised Bed

- ★ See raised bed support sheet for details.
- ★ Make sure the dept of the raised bed is 225mm for good deep water retention and root development.

Potatoes in Tyres

Resources

Tyres, 3 seed potatoes, compost/soil, water

Method

- ★ Place one tyre on the ground and fill with compost/soil.
- ★ Plant the seed potatoes into the tyre.
- ★ When leaves start to show, add another tyre and cover with more soil/compost.
- ★ Continue to add tyres throughout the growing season and harvest when the tops of the plant die off.

Health and Safety

- ★ Ensure all students stay within the group.
- ★ Use tools safely.
- ★ Ensure students wash hands after garden session.
- ★ Please refer to the worksheet on Health & Safety for detailed information.



Lettuce and Flower Window Box

Resources

Window box or container, lettuce seeds, flower seeds, compost / soil, water.

Method

- ★ Fill container with soil/compost.
- ★ Sow the seeds directly into the soil or sow in pots and transplant into the container when grown.
- ★ Label all seeds.
- ★ Harvest lettuce when ready and eat.
- ★ Remove dead flowers to maximise flowering time.



Apple Tree Against a Wall

Resources

Wall space, apple tree, compost/manure, soil, water, masonry nails and twine or wires.

Method

- ★ Cut a hole through the concrete large enough to plant the tree or drill 50mm hole in the concrete and make a raised bed (see above) to plant the tree in.
- ★ Dig a hole and add manure/compost.
- ★ Plant the tree and water.
- ★ As the tree grows, prune into the shape of a fan so the branches lay flat against the wall.
- ★ Tie back branches as they grow.



4 Ideas for research projects

Maths - Measure and plan the garden and draw a map, measure the size of container and work out volume of soil required.

SESE - Research Mediterranean plants and microclimates.

Art - Decorate containers, make labels and signs for plants, and make display and plan of the garden.

For more information

Cultivate Centre: www.cultivate.ie

Research Words: ESPALIER, FAN