

Lower KS2

Go Green!



Great Garden Countdown...

- Write the following in the middle of your page –**Gardening**
- Now set yourself a timer/time limit of five minutes
- Write down everything you know about gardening in that time
- If you are a slow writer, allow yourself a few extra minutes on your time eg. ten minutes
- Here are some headings to help you



Equipment

**What is needed
to help plants
grow?**

Gardening

**What things can
you grow?**

The Wonder of Words

- Draw yourself a table (turning your page landscape will give you more space) and put in the following headings.
- Collect the words in bold from the text below "A Guide to Greening Your School" and work out the meanings.
- Match with a definition from the Mixed up Meanings table.

An example has been done to show you what to do.

Word	Have you heard it before? Where?	Best Guess at Meaning	Most likely meaning from the ones below	Any related words?
Protect	My mum says I have to wear a hat to protect me from the sun	Keep safe	To keep safe, look after, to keep in good condition	Protecting Protected Protection

Mixed up Meanings

To keep safe, to look after, to keep in good condition	A woody plant, smaller than a tree	The furthest point or limit of something	Easy to get to, usable, handy, possible
The conditions for living, habitat, place, space, area, ground	To do with a town or city	Straight up or down	To keep heat or cold in or out of something
	Not able to grow fruit or offspring	Good things, advantages	Barrel, cask, keg, container
Large size or amount, significant, plentiful	Environment, situation, setting	Able to survive a long time without rain	

A guide to greening your school

INFORMATION SHEET

Source: <https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/>

Urban school gardens

Gardens play an important role in towns and cities. They could become even more important in the future as our climate changes. They help to **protect** us against flooding and **extremes** of temperature, whilst supporting wildlife and help gardeners to be healthy. Gardens can provide an amazing range of **benefits**.



The term '**urban greening**' simply means growing plants wherever possible in towns and cities. You may only have a small garden, or no garden, but together the amount of green space we look after really adds up. We really can make a difference by making sure that every **available** space in our school grounds contains plants.

Greening your school garden

From planting a wall **shrub** to growing a few more plants for wildlife, schools can really make a difference. You may only have a small garden but when lots of people do something the results will really add up. Here are a few ways to green up your school **environment**.

Plant climbers and wall shrubs

Most of us have walls and fences that have space for a climber or wall shrub. Use these leafy coverings to help **insulate** buildings in winter (reducing heating bills) and keep them cooler in summer. You can even plant **vertically** by putting in green wall planting systems.



Grow plants for wildlife

When it comes to attracting wildlife, it's a case of the more plants the better. Aim to grow as many different types of plant as you can, including **native** plants and provide as much cover as possible. This will help you provide food and shelter at most times of the year.



Install green roofs

Any bird's eye view of a town or city reveals that roofs cover a **substantial** area. It is possible to turn these **barren** spaces into planted surfaces by making a green roof. These range from planted mats rolled out over a prepared base to flowery coverings grown in deeper soil – just make sure your roof can take the weight. Green roofs help reduce flooding and cool the air.



Grow the correct plants for your site

Think about where your school garden is. Is it in full sun? How much water will be available in the summer? Do you have hose pipe bans? In this case it may be better to plant **drought tolerant** plants. You may need to do a little more research before you plant, but this will give better results in the long run and avoid plants not growing properly. Also, do not try to grow acid loving plants such as blueberries on chalky soils. Grow plants which suit the **conditions** you have, rather than trying to change them. Right plant – right place!

Use and store rainwater

Plants need the most water in hot, dry and windy weather, which is usually when there is not much water around. Fitting a rainwater collection **butt** to a down pipe may provide extra water for your school garden. Always use a lid to cover the water butt for safety reasons.



The benefits of urban greening include:

- Improved air cooling, making it more bearable in towns and cities in hot weather
- Insulation of buildings by garden vegetation
- Improved air quality
- Reduction in garden flooding
- A source of habitats for wildlife
- Improved health for plants and gardeners



Colourful Reading!

- Pick three colours – or design three different lines eg. straight, wavy, zig-zag
- Read the text two times and find the following to underline.
- Use a different colour each time. Make sure you do a key. Here is an example:



Benefits of urban gardening -

Things that can be done in urban gardens –

Here is an example of the activity:

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Question Time – How many stars can you collect?

One star questions – getting your brain warmed up/easier to answer

Two star questions – making you think a bit more

Three star questions – more of a challenge

		
How might gardens help with climate change?	What are the benefits of wall shrubs and climbing plants?	What do you think are the three most effective ways in which urban gardening can help the environment? Explain your answers
What does 'urban greening' mean?	Do you think green roofs are a good idea? Explain your answer	Why is important to grow a wide variety of plants?
Find three ways of 'greening' up outdoor space	What can you do to make sure plants grow well?	Which of the ideas mentioned could also be done at home in a small yard or on a balcony?
What is a 'green' roof?	Think of three reasons why a water butt needs a lid	What are the best ways of preserving water in the garden?
What are the benefits of urban gardening?	Which is your favourite gardening 'top tip' from this text and why?	Why do you think native plants are important to help wildlife?

Design a Poster

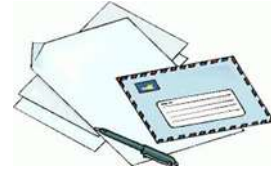
Design a poster to show the **benefits of urban gardening**. Remember the information has to be clear and eye-catching. Don't forget to do a picture to illustrate each point



Write Away!

Write a persuasive letter to your Headteacher to persuade him/her to have a school garden or, if you already have one, with suggestions on how to improve it. Don't forget to use the persuasive devices below and make sure you structure your letter well including:

- An introduction
- A paragraph for each key point backed up with
- A concluding paragraph



detail

How to persuade – persuasive devices			
Strong arguments <i>Give the key information</i>	Alliteration <i>Gardening is great...</i>	Rhetorical questions to get the reader thinking <i>Do you want to help the environment be a better place?</i>	Words/phrases that make people feel good <i>This will be a great help to wildlife</i>
Humour/puns <i>It's time to have a gardentastic time</i>	Imperative verbs Create a garden out of an old tin	Capitalised words for emphasis On every level, gardening is GOOD!	Powerful adjectives and verbs Gorgeous green roof Plant a climber