



Activity 1 – Reuse in the Garden

Learn to reuse everyday household items in the garden to grow seeds.

You will need:

- Empty, clean yogurt pots or other suitable tubs from your recycling
- Seeds (beans or sunflowers are good)
- Soil or compost
- Scissors and pen
- Spoon or small trowel
- White plastic, e.g. from a disposable plastic cup for plant labels
- Tray for the pots
- Space in a warm spot
- Water



Time required: 45 mins

Suitable for all ages



Safety Tips:

- Wash hands thoroughly.
- Be careful when using scissors.

Instructions:

1. Collect together all the items you need.
2. Using the scissors make some holes in the bottom of the plastic pots for drainage.
3. Place some compost in the plastic plant pot.
4. Put the seeds on top of the compost.
5. Cover the seeds with some more compost.
6. Cut labels from the white plastic. Write the name of the plant and place in the pot.
7. Place on a saucer or tray and put in a warm windowsill or in a greenhouse.
8. Water the pots and keep compost damp.
9. Seeds should take 2-12 days to germinate.
10. Plant out in a pot or garden when the seedlings have at least four leaves.

Watch a video of this activity on our Zone website.
Go to <http://zone.recycledevon.org>



Useful Tip:

Most plants will need what is called “hardening off” if they have been germinated inside. This means you need to put them outside during the day for about 3 days to get used to the cooler air before planting them in the garden.

DID YOU KNOW?

Half a billion plastic plant pots are ending up in landfill or incineration plants every year.

Some garden centres collect used plant pots to send off for recycling.

More ideas for making plant pots from reusable materials:-

Don't ever be short of plant-pots for your seeds...

you can use eggshells instead! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4KDo-X9rOI>

or make them from toilet rolls <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8qq9en5cKIk>

or make newspaper pots <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9dkseng3MgE>

Other ideas for Reuse in the Garden:-

An imaginative idea for reusing old ripped jeans – a wall-mounted strawberry planter! You could try this with some colourful flowers that like to trail, like lobelia or petunias.



Old plastic milk bottles holding plant pots are hooked onto an upturned pallet to create an attractive wall display for herbs or small plants.

You could create a whole vertical garden using milk bottles in this way.



Old plastic tub (which used to contain fat balls for birds) used as a cloche to protect a tender plant when first planted out into the garden. You could also use gallon water bottles in this way. Don't forget to make a hole in the top to let some condensation escape.



Share your pictures with us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram by tagging @RecycleDevon #recycledevon

Home Schooling

Planting activities are used to help children in Year 2 (6 and 7 years old) learn about plants in Science. They need to know that plants grow from seeds and bulbs and need sunlight, water and a suitable temperature in order to grow.

Children in Year 3 (aged 7 & 8) should be able to identify the different parts of the plant and describe experiments to find out what plants need.

