

Get Growing!

A gardening guide for kids



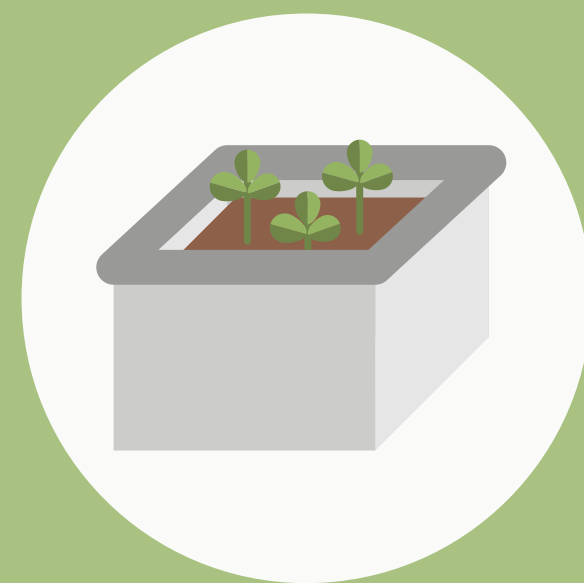
What do you want to grow?

There are so many kinds of plants to grow! Do you love fresh veggies? Beautiful flowers? Smelly herbs? Tasty fruit? Make a list of the top five plants you would like to try and grow.



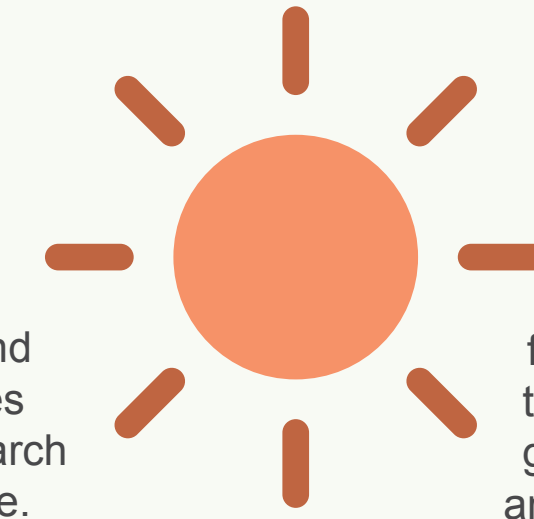
Start small.

If you are gardening for the first time, start small. Grow plants in a large container or in a 3'x3' garden plot. Starting a small is easy to take care of and lets you grow your plants successfully.



Temperature

What time of year is it? You will grow different plants in spring than summer. For example, peas like the cool fall and spring temperatures, but tomatoes grow well in the hot summer. Research what temperatures your plants like.

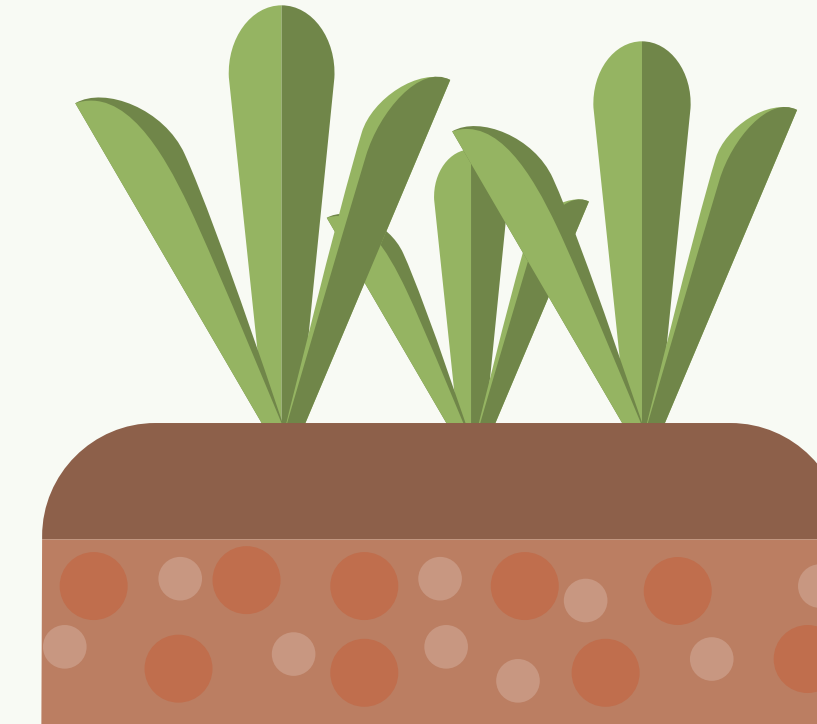


Sunlight

Some plants need a lot of sun to grow. Most fruit and vegetables like full sun. Some flowers and shrubs like full sun too. Other plants only need some sun and can grow in part or full shade. Research your plant and find out how much sunlight it needs to grow.

Soil

Good soil is really important for growing great plants. What kind of soil do you have? If you have a clayey or sandy soil, add compost to help make your soil better for growing a garden. Or fill a container with a potting mix and get growing.



Water

Most plants need soil that is moist - not too wet and not too dry. Check your soil every few days to see if it needs water. Water your plants as needed. Plants grown in pots will need water everyday in the summer.

Plant seeds

Many plants can be started from seeds. Choose veggies or flowers that have large seeds if you are a beginning gardener. Plants like beans, squash, okra, marigolds, or zinnias grow really well from seeds.



Plant transplants

Many plants have small seeds that take a long time to grow. These plants are easier to plant from transplants. Transplants are small seedlings that have already been grown in a greenhouse.



Add mulch

Add a layer of mulch after you have planted your garden. Mulch can be leaves, straw, newspaper, or wood chips. Mulch keeps the soil moist, weeds down, and improves the soil.



Share your garden

Friends love fresh veggies and flowers. Share the harvest of your garden with your family and friends.



Relax and have fun

The garden is a great place to enjoy being outside. What sounds do you hear? What scents do you smell? Bask in the beauty of your garden!

