

A Guide To Community Growing Events

Plant and Share provides a month-long opportunity to come together in your community and get people involved in gardening. From learning how to create windowsill boxes of herbs to finding out about pollinators, there are dozens of free resources you can download. Whatever your experience, whatever the size of your outdoor space, everyone can get stuck in to sow, grow and share.



This resource helps anyone who is setting-up a community event for the first time or wants to refresh what they are doing.

Hints and tips

- 1. What do I want to achieve?** Plan what you want the end result to be and work back from there. If your plan is for everyone involved to be growing a sunflower by the end of summer, plan the steps back from that. This will help with the next step too.
- 2. When do I want to host my event?** By thinking of a time when most people can join in will make your event intergenerational. Can you host at the weekend when people won't be at work or school? Do you want to invite people from your community or is it for an established group like a youth club or after school group?
- 3. Do I need permission?** If you want to close a road for a car-free event in a city neighbourhood street or village centre, then you'll need permission from the Local Authority. There is usually a small charge, but for things like the Jubilee and Coronation the cost is usually waived. Are you using a community centre or village hall? Make sure you confirm the booking.
- 4. Should I build a team?** Running a successful event can take a lot of organising. If you create a team of volunteers or colleagues, you can share the load. You might want to run an activity such as gardening, but might not be the most accomplished gardener. You could ask a local allotment owner or community gardener to come and help.

5. How do I keep people safe? If you host an event, it is your responsibility to keep people safe, but there is no need to be daunted. In most cases, all you need to do is consider realistically what could potentially go wrong, what effect this could have on those present and what you need to do to prevent it. Completing a risk assessment and having a plan for the day will help, along with pairing adults and more able people with younger people or those who struggle to reach or dig.

6. Do I need insurance? If you are running an event as part of an established group then your existing insurance should cover you, but you should check. You could also be covered if you are hiring a venue, but again do check. There is no law that says you must buy insurance for a community event, but you might want to make sure you are covered in the unlikely event that something goes wrong.

7. How can I cover my costs? Hosting a practical event such as a session learning about how to plant herbs is likely to have costs for pots, seeds and compost. You will also need trowels, gloves and labels. You could charge a small entry-fee to cover seeds and compost, however entry-fees often exclude those most in need. Use recycled egg boxes or loo roll cardboard to plant seedlings and ask volunteers to bring equipment. Or see what local grants are available from your Parish or local council, or if you have time you could fundraise.

8. How do I tell people? You can download the Plant and Share Month pack which has flyers you can personalise and put in windows and noticeboards. There are sample social media posts and a template press release you can send to your local paper, radio or TV news.

9. Something to take home? Don't forget to think about what you can give people to take home - will they all have a little pot of planted seeds, or will you give them a recipe to accompany what they have helped plant? Is there another event you want to invite people to?

Generate conversation and explore sensory experiences.

Host a celebration event to share ideas about gardening and build on the skills learned or host a celebration a meal to cook and eat what was grown.

Gather a selection of herbs to propagate and then come back together to cook something that includes them and/or share memories generated by those herbs.

About this resource

Want to explore more?

Try these activities and resources:

fflgettogether.org/get-involved/plant-and-share-toolkit/

foodforlife.org.uk/gettogether

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