



Pop-up Pocket Garden

A project to do at home

What is a Pop-Up Pocket Garden?

It is a Pocket Garden project that you do at home. As a 'pop-up' garden you can focus on your garden for a few days together in the holidays, so that it appears to 'pop up' quite quickly. You can choose any theme to inspire you. Remember to include food for people, and plants and features that are good for wildlife.

Why Take Part?

- ✓ Can be done in a small space outdoors or indoors on a windowsill.
- ✓ Can be done by yourself or as a family project.
- ✓ It's fun to create something new.
- ✓ You can eat your crops!
- ✓ See the wildlife that visits your garden.



Project details



Suggested steps

These suggested steps are to help you to complete your Pop-up Pocket Garden.

You can create and grow your garden at any time of year. Remember to check how quickly your plants will grow and what time of year is usually best for them to grow. In winter, you can design and create the structure of your garden, before beginning planting in spring.

- **Step 1:** Pick a spot in the garden or choose a windowsill for your Pop-up garden. Use the design brief on page 4 to help you create your design.
- **Step 2:** Get growing and gather any materials you'll need. Rummage in the back of cupboards or in a garage for things you can reuse. Prepare the spot where your Pop-up garden will be, moving things if necessary to make space for your garden.
- **Step 3:** Continue to grow and build your garden. You can record your garden journey with photographs and a journal.
- **Step 4:** Your garden is now complete! You can continue to add planting as the seasons change. Consider whether you want to make a permanent feature of your garden, or enjoy it for a time and then dismantle it. Donate your plants or re-home them in your garden.

Please share images of your gardening journey with us by tagging @KSBSScotland on Facebook and Instagram with #PocketGarden.



Design brief

Follow the five principles below and include plants you can eat as well as plants and features for wildlife.

The five principles are:

Principle	Example
Locally sourced	Use as many native plants as you can. Native plants are ones that have occurred naturally here since the last Ice Age. Lots of wildlife here can use them for food and shelter.
Seasonal	Your garden should be looking its best when you plan to complete it. Think about plants that will be in flower or leaf then.
Waste reduction	Reuse containers, recycle building materials, use compost etc.
Organic	This is a garden for people and other creatures and includes things to eat. Don't use pesticides, fungicides etc.
Ethically sourced	The garden should be peat free. Any composts and mulches should ideally be locally made from recycled materials and plant matter.



View previous years designs for inspiration:
www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/pocketgarden

Size:

Your Pop-up Pocket garden can be any shape you want but it should fit within a footprint of 120cm x 100cm. A smaller option of making your garden in a container is fine too, and it can be any container you want. You can re-use any material to create the garden. Play with some available construction materials, e.g. placing them upside down or onto a side to give you ideas. You can introduce some height through construction or plants but should be no higher than two metres.

Scale:

Your design should be to the scale of the plants used. This will help you think about how your plants and structures will fit together. Keep the design simple but imaginative.

Plant choice:

Include edible plants for people, as well as plants that are good for wildlife. It's great to have something home-grown to look forward to tasting. Choose plants that you would find growing together, for example do not put pond plants next to plants that prefer somewhere drier. Choose plants that thrive in Scotland and play with colour, leaf size, shape and plant heights.

We encourage you to use plants, seeds and materials that you may already have at home.

Anchoring:

Make sure that all the elements of your garden are secure. If it is outside, how will it survive any wind and rain? If it is on a windowsill will it fit and be secure?

Construction:

Think about all the elements you will need and how they will fit together, and how you can disguise or cover the framework (base, pots or containers etc.) of your garden.

Resources and advice

- Garden for Life Forum organisations can provide you with lots of useful information and advice to help you. Visit www.gardenforlife.org.uk for some great resources and helpful links. There may also be local expertise and advice available from an [It's Your Neighbourhood](#) or [Beautiful Scotland](#) group near to you.
- Materials used (e.g. compost etc.) should be sustainably sourced / manufactured. Please use peat free compost and locally sourced materials where possible.
- We encourage you to use plants, seeds and materials that you may already have at home.
- Do not collect any plants from the wild. Some wild plants are protected by law. Choose open pollinated seeds instead of F1 seeds for more diversity and so your plants can adapt to the growing conditions in your garden.
- If you want to return your Pop-up garden site to being just a windowsill or other part of a garden, find a good way to reuse the plants and materials e.g. replanting elsewhere or perhaps create a permanent home for your garden.

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