

# Bedding Plants

## Fruit / Veg / Salad / Herbs



GP Garden Services simple tips written with fun in mind.  
Take the info seriously but with lots of fun on top!

### The Basics

#### When

- 🍃 Bedding plants / Container Gardening / Vegetable / Salad / Fruit / herbs are all getting ready to go.
- 🍃 They should all be kept in a greenhouse / cold frame or indoors until the very end of April or early May to protect them from possible cold nights.
- 🍃 If you don't have a greenhouse or cold frame simply keep them somewhere inside (kitchen worktop or window sill) where natural light can still get to the plants.
- 🍃 Don't forget to water them regularly, especially if you've still got the heating on!
- 🍃 When you are feeling brave (late April / early May) then introduce them to the outside.
- 🍃 In the meantime, get talking to them – give them names – get the children to water them – have favourites but keep it quiet, don't tell the others – plants have feelings as well!

#### Location

- 🍃 Once you are ready to take them outside, prepare the ground / bed you are going to plant or get any plant pots, other containers or growbags ready.
- 🍃 Choose somewhere that gets the sun.
- 🍃 Make sure its away from the football goal or basketball net, if possible.
- 🍃 Get everyone to help – it's much more fun as a team sport.

#### Planting

- 🍃 Plants really can grow in almost anything if you prepare it right. Even really old wellies with holes drilled in the bottom.
- 🍃 There is no real answer to how many plants to put in each container.
- 🍃 For veg/salad/fruit you want to grow to eat, its best to keep the same type of plants together, rather than mixing them up.
- 🍃 We would say a maximum of 3 plants per grow bag.
- 🍃 If you are putting in the ground, then mark out the area first making sure you leave enough space between them.
- 🍃 To keep any passing pilots interested, you could plant words or shapes to be viewed from above.
- 🍃 Dig planting pits and line with compost.

## Planting Continued



- Be very careful at this point as young plants are fragile and like to be treated gently.
- Plant brown side down!
- Work the plant out of its pot, gently rub the roots if you can see them – don't forget to talk to them while you are doing it to re-assure them that everything will be alright.
- Make sure the whole of the soil section of the plant is well into the ground/compost. Top up area with additional compost and water in.

## Watering

- Sounds easy doesn't it, there really isn't much to know other than :
- Water in the early morning and early evening.
- Do NOT water in the middle of the day when the sun is beating down on them and when you think they look really thirsty.
- Watering in the middle of the day does not give it a chance to soak in, there is also a theory that leaves get scorched / burnt by the hot sun.
- Water at the base of the plant where possible – plants mostly drink from the bottom.

## Feeding

- A bit like some of us at the moment, plants love their food as well as their drink!
- Just the same as us, it really is possible to over feed them!
- It is important to follow the simple instructions on the feed bottle and you'll be fine.

## Predators

- Not Lions, Dinosaurs or even Eagles, but Slugs and Snails.
- They will come and try to upset you by eating your new best friends.
- One very 'green' way of combating them is to crush eggshells and placing them in a ring around the base of the plants.
- These dangerous predators won't slide over the shells as it hurts them (aaaaahhhhhh) and they will turn around and go elsewhere.

## Jeremy's Crazy Tomato idea!

- A crazy theory to try, if you are feeling adventurous, is to grow your Tomatoes upside down!
- Make a hole in an old bucket and build something to suspend it from its handle.
- Take the plant out of its little pot and very carefully thread it through the hole you have made from the inside.
- You should see the bottom of the soil part of the plant facing up at you when you look down into the bucket.
- Add a little drainage layer surrounding the plant. Part fill the bucket with compost and soil.
- To water simply fill up the bucket and walk away!
- Make sure the plant can still get some light, the weight of the tomatoes will then make them hang down as they grow!