

Sanctuary
Supported
Living

retirement
communities

technology
enabled living

ready steady
grow



My Garden Planner

This planner will help you plan your crop to enter Ready Steady Grow 2024.

Step by step, it'll help you to grow flowers, vegetables and herbs to suit the space available to you and minimise waste.



Step 1: Set your gardening goals

The first step in creating your garden is to set your gardening goals. Your goals should be set around the competition judging criteria and the reasons why you're entering.

Example goals:

- Enter the Keep Calm, Love Plants category to create a tranquil garden space filled with a variety of plants to help me relax and unwind.
- Enter the Keep Calm, Love Plants category to learn more about different plant species and their care, fostering a deeper connection with nature.
- Enter the Best Fruit and Veg Patch category to challenge myself to grow a diverse range of fruits and vegetables, and share the harvest with my friends.
- Enter the Tallest Sunflower category and experiment with different sunflower varieties to see which combination results in the tallest growth.

Now it's your turn:

My goal is to...

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Step 2: Find inspiration and research

Now you know what you would like to achieve, it's time to think about how you will achieve it.

How much space do I have and what can I do with it?

If you don't have a vegetable or flower patch in your garden, ask a member of staff if you can create one. If you don't have a communal garden, do some research and see if there are local allotments you can rent and share with other residents.

Notes...

What have other people done?

Take a look online and see how other people have kitchen gardens in small spaces or if there are any ideas and themes you like to try or experiment with. See what's recommended in gardening magazines, recipes books and websites. Watch nature programmes to see how wildlife are attracted to gardens.

Think about the support you may need from staff to reach your goal and before you do any planning, run your ideas past them to see if they think can actually help.

Notes...



What support and advice do I need?

Think about the support you need to transform and look after your garden...

Have you heard about a local gardening group, or would like advice from the experts in a nearby garden center? Maybe you haven't found enough inspiration online or in your Information Pack, but you (or a member of staff on your behalf) could contact a local plant shop, garden center or gardening society? Perhaps the local gardening society could do an online talk for your service or offer advice by email?

Notes...

What equipment do I need?

Think about the equipment you need to grow your crop. If you don't have any gardening equipment, do you need to speak to staff about this and ask them if they can source it for you? If others are taking part in the competition, they may be able to apply for funding, discounts or donations for gardening tools that can be used by everyone at the service.

Notes...



Step 3: Pick your type of garden

What type of garden will you be growing your produce in?

- Flat-earth garden
- Raised bed garden
- Container garden

For flat-earth gardens, raised beds and large containers:

Record the available dimensions of your garden (length, width)

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Calculate the total square metres of growing space available to you

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For small container gardens:

Count the number of containers you have (or plan to have), as well as notes on the dimensions/sizes of the contains. Add any unusual containers that you'd like to create, or brainstorm ideas on how to reuse items you already own to make your garden more eco-friendly. Write the amounts down:

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Step 6: Create your gardening schedule

This is the final step in planning your garden. Complete the schedule on the following pages with when to plan each plant, as well as when (if you need) to harvest any crop.

The schedule has a notes section where you can write down, for example, if something went wrong and why so that if you plant again, the same problem doesn't happen.

Each column in the table should be filled in with one crop. Write the type of plant in the top box, and then fill in the details about that particular plant in the boxes below the name.

Notes...

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Plant					
Variety					
Seed Vendor					
Indoor Seed Planting Date					
Outdoor Planting Date					
Harvest Date (if applicable)					
Container					
Notes					

Crop					
Variety					
Seed Vendor					
Indoor Seed Planting Date					
Outdoor Planting Date					
Estimated Harvest Date					
Yield					
Repeat table above					

Notes:

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing notes.