

Sanctuary  
Supported  
Living

retirement  
communities



ready steady  
**grow**



# My Garden Planner

This planner will help you prepare your entry for **Ready Steady Grow 2026**.

With step-by-step guidance, it will support you to grow flowers, vegetables and herbs that suit your space while minimising 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 are entering.

## Example goals:

- Enter the **Growing Together Garden Challenge** category by transforming the garden into a vibrant, nature-inspired space filled with colourful flowers that attract wildlife, while also creating a welcoming communal picnic area for everyone to enjoy.
- Enter the **Wildlife Welcome focus area** so I can attract wildlife and practice my wildlife photography.
- Enter the **Champion Crops focus area** by growing a small herb garden, creating a fresh selection of herbs to use in everyday cooking.
- Enter the **Renew and Reuse focus area** to give an old garden bench a new lease of life and use old buckets and jars to create colourful and personalised planters.

## 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 staff if you can create one, if you think there's space. 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...

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## What have other people done?

Look online for inspiration - see how others make kitchen gardens in small spaces and note any ideas you want to try. See what's recommended in gardening magazines, recipe books and websites. Watch nature programmes to see how wildlife are attracted to gardens.

Before you start planning, check in with staff to see how they can help.

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## 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 you like advice from the experts in a nearby garden center? You or a member of staff can contact a local plant shop, garden centre or gardening society for advice.

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## 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 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.

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# 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 how many containers you have (or plan to use) and make a note of their sizes. Include any unusual containers you want to create, and think about ways to reuse items you already have to make your garden more eco-friendly. Write all your ideas down.

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# Step 6: Create your gardening schedule

Use the schedule on the next pages to note when each crop should be planted and harvested. Seed packets and the Ready Steady Grow resources will help you fill this in.

There's also a notes section, where you can record anything that didn't go as planned and what you might do differently next time.

Use one column per crop: write the plant name at the top, then fill in the details in the boxes underneath.

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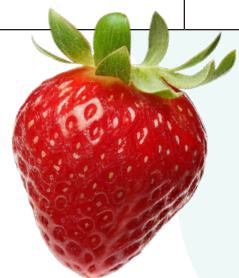
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Plant					
Variety					
Seed Vendor					
Indoor Seed Planting Date					
Outdoor Planting Date					
Harvest Date (if applicable)					
Container					
Notes					



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 spanning the width of the page, providing a template for writing notes.