

Creating Vertical Gardens

This activity involves creating vertical gardens by attaching flower pots onto the fence using string or thin wire. Preparation of the pots is covered in the lesson plan named 'Recycled Plastic Bottle Flowerpots', however any plant pots can be used for this activity.

The starting point of this activity was collecting cuttings from wild mint that grows in our woodland. Students learned how to take cuttings off plants and how to root them. Taking a whole plant with its roots is against the law in the UK, unless a full permission has been obtained from the owner of the land where the plant grows.

To take a cutting off the plant, we removed only the very top of the mint plant, about 10cm long. The mint cutting is placed in a moist tissue for transport back to school. This will help maintaining the moisture of the plant and stop it from wilting or drying out. Once back at school, the bottom part of the mint cutting is carefully cut with sharp scissors and placed in a cup with water, making sure there is enough water to support the rooting process over the next 7-10 days. Bottom leaves should be removed making sure there are no leaves submerged under water. Place the cup in a light and airy space and check it every few days to make sure the water hasn't dried out. Add more water if needed. Once the roots are well established, the plant is ready to be planted in soil.

This process can be replicated with most herbs and many other plants. Feel free to experiment and try rooting other plants!

Once the plants had been potted, the students used string to attach them to the fence. Team work was essential part of this process and they continued to water and check on the plants over the following period.

