



A17 Holiday care of the garden



Caring for the school garden during holidays needs some forward planning to keep ahead of the weather and gardening tasks. A few simple steps can keep vegetable and fruit crops alive and well with harvests ready for your return. All you need is a few willing volunteers and a rota (see T6).

Resources

- Pen and paper
- T6

Activity

- 1 Draw up a list of people who you know would be willing to help.
- 2 Organise a rota and allocate specific jobs, eg weeding, watering, ventilating greenhouses/polytunnel, harvesting, etc (see T6).
- 3 Make sure that the necessary tools will be available. Confirm access arrangements in advance. Speak to the school site manager to let them know what to expect.
- 4 Monitor the rota as appropriate and step in with contingency plans if necessary, eg watering particularly sensitive plants if someone is unable to attend.
- 5 Send thank you notes to everyone that helped look after the garden during the holidays.



Extended activities

Plan your sowing and harvest times around school terms. See the 'School Term Garden Planner' (part of the 'Food for Life partnership Mark: an introduction pack').

Health & Safety	<p>Ensure anyone helping in the garden during holidays is aware of school access and safety procedures and familiar with specific known hazards in the garden. Always inform the school site manager about what's happening.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>See also Health and Safety Guidelines (Section B3.3)</i></p>
Activities on DVD	T6 Checklist for holiday care of the school garden
Further information	B4.11 Holiday care of the school garden