



A23 Setting up a watering rota



The secret to success with watering is for everyone involved to know the need of the plants; which plants to water and those to leave alone. A rota helps keep things organised. It's a chance to get to know your plants and look for pests and diseases. It is also an excuse to be distracted by harvesting produce! See B5.6 for watering tips.

Resources

- Pen and paper

Activity

- 1 Draw up a list of people who you know would be willing to help.
- 2 Organise a rota and allocate specific watering jobs, eg garden areas, groups of plants, etc.
- 3 Make sure that the necessary equipment will be available. Confirm access arrangements in advance. Speak to the school's site manager to let them know what (and whom) to expect.
- 4 Monitor the rota and step in with back-up plans if necessary, eg watering particularly sensitive plants if someone is unable to carry out their turn.
- 5 Keep people informed of each other's work, meeting regularly to discuss improvements or problems. This can also include celebrating success and sharing the harvest!



Health & Safety

Make sure that everyone involved with watering is familiar with the necessary equipment and access arrangements. People should take care when carrying heavy watering cans and moving hoses. Follow Manual Handling guidance (B3.4). Surfaces can be slippery when wet. Follow the school policy for using 'caution' signs as required.

See also Health and Safety Guidelines (Section B3.3)

Further information

A17 Holiday care of the garden
T6 Checklist for holiday care of the garden
B5.6 Watering plants