

# Growing Enterprise Project

Enterprise projects so far include;

Plant & vegetable sales

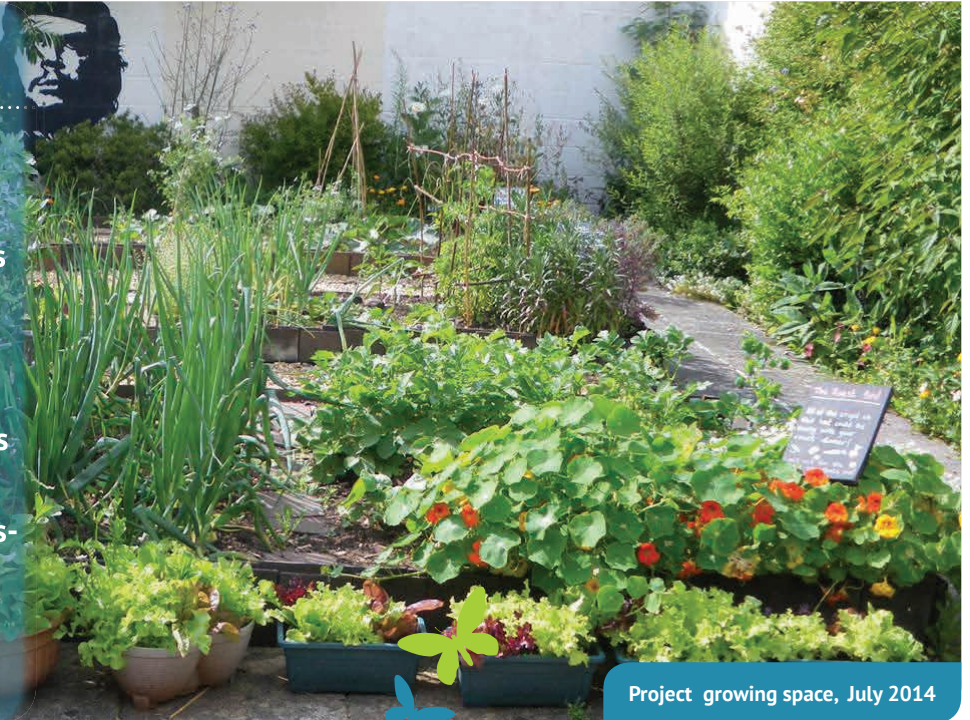
Hand made juices and cordials

Bird feeders and bird boxes

Salad bags with edible flowers

Windowsill sow and grow pots-  
herbs and micro greens

Christmas decorations



Project growing space, July 2014

## The project...

Growing Enterprise was set up with funding from The Daylesford Foundation in September 2013 at Garden Organic's headquarters, Ryton Organic Gardens in Warwickshire. It has since received further funding from the Sheldon Trust.

The Growing Enterprise project provides opportunities for disadvantaged young people, some of whom have Special Educational Needs (SEN). This project provides an opportunity to learn about organic gardening and understand enterprise through making products which can be sold within a small enterprise.

This project has engaged with over 100 students, who attend for two-hour sessions each week in blocks of at least six weeks. Six local special schools or colleges, one of which is a pupil referral unit, take part.

The young people are responsible for all of the planting and maintenance of a designated organic growing space within the gardens which includes a greenhouse, raised beds and containers.

They learn employability skills by producing items for sale to the public and contribute towards managing the budget, marketing and sale of products.



Summer festival stall

The project in three lines...

**THERAPEUTIC**  
**SKILL DEVELOPMENT**  
**CONFIDENCE BUILDING**



Planting out

## Skills developed...

- Working with others
- Communication skills
- Decision making
- Organic horticultural skills
- Confidence and self esteem
- Creativity
- Money handling and maths

## Top Tips

Having sheltered areas such as the classroom, open teaching area, polytunnels and greenhouses are a great way to continue with indoor activities when the weather is bad!



Taking root cuttings from our established 'Bocking 14' comfrey plants



Saved seeds sold in the shop at Ryton Organic Gardens

## A student who attended the project.

One of the students attending the project has speech, vision and learning difficulties. She had done some gardening in the past, but was lacking in confidence. She enjoyed the first set of sessions so much that she begged her teachers to let her join another group in order to spend more time with the project and help other students, fast becoming a very reliable and capable member of the team.

Constantly smiling and encouraging others, it was a pleasure to see her enjoying the gardens. Her confidence improved enormously and she enjoyed making produce to sell, such as the comfrey cuttings seen above. The project gave this student a real experience of business and money handling skills as well as helping her to engage and work together with her classmates.

## What's next for Growing Enterprise...

Education officer, Elaine Hibbs, has been running the project since the start and is delighted with its success;

*"It's wonderful to see the students engaged and active in their garden, growing in confidence and having new experiences."*

Garden Organic aim for this project to be rolled out to other settings as we believe the Growing Enterprise project has the potential to benefit many different community groups.



A good harvest!



Stall selling produce

## Who's involved?

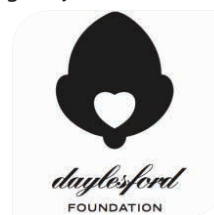
The Growing Enterprise project is supported by some fantastic and dedicated volunteers. Experience in either organic gardening or in working with special needs groups is not essential as all sessions are coordinated by a trained horticultural therapist and supported by school or college staff.

Many of the students really benefit from the increased support and supervision that an extra pair of enthusiastic hands can bring.



Making bug houses!

Visit the website for more information and to see our blog for the Growing Enterprise and other projects relating to growing: [daylesfordfoundation.co.uk](http://daylesfordfoundation.co.uk)



To find out more about Garden Organic's educational work and Growing Enterprise project visit:

[www.gardenorganic.org.uk/education](http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/education)