



Planting Out

Description of activity	PAL
Planting into the garden	Planned, Exploratory
Time of Year	Time needed to complete activity
Spring through to Autumn	Dependent on number of plants but a minimum of 1 hour

Preparation

1. Assess the weather, this activity is purely outdoors and is more suited to fine weather.
2. Purchase plants and compost.

Tools and materials

1. Compost (Multi purpose, peat-free)
2. Plants
3. Compost scoop
4. Watering can with a rose
5. Gloves if desired but not necessary
6. Trowel and spade
7. Bucket



What to do

1. Soak plants roots in bucket of water
2. Make a hole twice the size of the root ball
3. Add a little compost to the bottom of the hole and 'fork in' lightly
4. Add the plant and then water
5. Back fill with compost and soil mix
6. Water again



Gardens are always changing, they need refreshing and renewing to keep looking good and to keep engaging people. As long as the ground has some moisture, and one waters well, planting can take place anytime. Follow a basic rule of 'right plant right place', read the labels to see what conditions the plant likes, does this fit with the garden, and different places within the garden, full sun to shade, boggy or dry, sheltered or exposed.

Depending on the garden, you may be looking to add a few plants, or lots. If the latter is the case, consider splitting the task over a few days to offer the opportunity to participate to more people. Repeating the task may help people to engage the memories of the last planting day and build up a confident relationship with the garden space.

Extras

This task can have a 'Part 1' for people who don't wish to dig but do want to be involved in the garden by choosing and purchasing plants and compost and deciding where to place them.

To help roots to establish in the soil, daily watering for a week after planting is recommended if no significant rain falls. Long-term watering of the garden is an activity in its own right and can become a daily task during dry weather. Ideally using water butts, water thoroughly in the evening as this is when most plants like to drink. Use a watering can or hose with a soft spray. It is best practice to water very thoroughly once a week rather than a splash every day. This allows water to reach the roots deeper in the soil.

Adaptations and variations

WolfGarten tools are adaptable for people with physical challenges, using different length and style of handle. They can be personalised and are a great help as physical needs change.

People unable to dig can be supported to decide how to arrange the plants for the best display, which plants to put together according to colour and shape. They could help bring tools out and clean and put them away again.

Weather contingency

Planting is a joyous activity that should wait for a fine day outside. However, choosing of the plants can be done on a rainy day either from brochures or a day trip out to nursery or garden centre.

