



HISTORIC
ROYAL
PALACES



using gardening to change lives

TOWER OF LONDON
SUPERBLOOM
GARDEN MANUAL

LARGE PRINT INSTRUCTIONS
FOR GROUPS

SPACE TO STIR AND BE STIRRED

TOWER OF LONDON • HAMPTON COURT PALACE • BANQUETING HOUSE
KENSINGTON PALACE • KEW PALACE • HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE AND GARDENS

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Resource	Number of each
Metre rulers or tape measures	
Garden line or rope	
Spades	
Long-handled forks	
Hand forks	
Rakes	
Buckets	
Seed trays	
Compost suitable for seed sowing	
Perlite granules	
Sieve/colander	
Dibber or something to make holes for seeds to go in	
Wooden tamper	

Resource	Number of each
Plant labels	
Watering tray	
Surface coverings	
Trowels	
Hoes	
Pricking out tools	
9cm pots	
Compost suitable for potting on	
Watering can with fine rose	
Plant feed	
Kneeling pads	
Scissors or secateurs	

TESTING SOIL



Knowing your soil type is very important. It will help you choose the best plants for your garden. Different types of plants like different types of soil.

YOU WILL NEED:



Area of soil



Kneeler or mat

TESTING SOIL

INSTRUCTIONS:



1. Grab a handful of moist (not wet) soil.



2. Gently squeeze the soil in your palm using just one hand.



3. Open your hand.



4. Gently poke the soil with one finger.

TESTING SOIL

What's it like?	Which type of soil is it?
Soil falls apart before being poked	SANDY
Soil crumbles after being poked	LOAMY
Soil holds together after being poked	CLAY

SOWING SEEDS DIRECT – SCATTER METHOD



YOU WILL NEED:



Seeds



Plant labels + pencil



Hoe



Watering can



Gardening line

SOWING SEEDS DIRECT – SCATTER METHOD

INSTRUCTIONS:



1. Weed and level the soil ready for sowing.



2. If necessary, mark out the planting area using a gardening line or hoe.



3. Sow the seeds liberally or according to the instructions on the packet.



4. Rake over the area to lightly cover the seeds.



5. Water in the seeds.

SOWING SEEDS DIRECT – SCATTER METHOD

INSTRUCTIONS:



6. Label the area in which seeds sown.



7. Clean the tools.



8. Put the tools away.

SOWING SEEDS DIRECT – ROW METHOD



YOU WILL NEED:



Seeds



Trowel



Kneeler



Plant labels + pencil



Gardening line



Watering can



Hoe

SOWING SEEDS DIRECT – ROW METHOD

INSTRUCTIONS:



1. Create a line using gardening line.



2. Make a shallow trench with a hoe or trowel.



3. Place the seeds in a line along the trench.



4. Lightly cover the seeds with soil.



5. Water in the seeds.

SOWING SEEDS DIRECT – ROW METHOD

INSTRUCTIONS:



6. Put a label at the end of each line of seeds with the plant name on.



7. Thin out seedlings when growth shows.

SOWING SMALL SEEDS IN TRAYS



Small seeds and large seeds are sown in different ways to make sure they germinate and grow well.

SOWING SMALL SEEDS IN TRAYS

YOU WILL NEED:



Small seeds



Watering tray



Seed tray



Plant labels + pencil



Compost



Sieve/colander



Perlite



Watering can



Sowing grid
(optional)



Wooden *tamper*

SOWING SMALL SEEDS IN TRAYS

INSTRUCTIONS:



1. Mix the compost with a handful of perlite.



2. Overfill the seed tray with the compost/ perlite mix.



3. Level off using the wooden tamper.



4. Use the tamper to gently flatten down the compost.



5. Sow seeds evenly over the top of the compost (use a sowing grid if you have one).

SOWING SMALL SEEDS IN TRAYS

INSTRUCTIONS:



6. Lightly cover the seeds by sprinkling compost over them (use a sieve or colander if you have one).



7. Write the name of the plant on the label and insert into the seed tray.



8. Place the label at one end of the seed tray.



9. Place the seed tray in 1cm of water.



10. Remove the seed tray from the water once it feels heavy.

SOWING SMALL SEEDS IN TRAYS

INSTRUCTIONS:



11. Place the seed tray in a sunny spot.



12. Take the seed trays indoors if the risk of frost has not passed.

SOWING LARGE SEEDS IN TRAYS



Small seeds and large seeds are sown in different ways to make sure they germinate and grow well.

SOWING LARGE SEEDS IN TRAYS

YOU WILL NEED:



Large seeds



Watering tray



9cm pots



Plant labels + pencil



Compost



Watering can



Dibber

SOWING LARGE SEEDS IN TRAYS

INSTRUCTIONS:



1. Fill the pot with compost.



2. Gently tap the pot to level the compost.



3. Make a hole in the middle of the compost.



4. Place a seed in the hole and cover it with compost.



5. Write the name of the plant on a label and insert into the pot.

SOWING LARGE SEEDS IN TRAYS

INSTRUCTIONS:



6. Place the pot in a watering tray and water from above.



7. Place the pot in sunlight.



8. Take pots indoors if the risk of frost has not passed.

PRICKING OUT



If you've sown your seedlings in trays, the next stage is to give each seedling more room to grow. This is known as pricking out.

PRICKING OUT

YOU WILL NEED:



Tray of seedlings



Plant labels + pencil



Pots



Dibber



Compost



Watering can



Watering tray

PRICKING OUT

INSTRUCTIONS:



1. Fill the pot with compost.



2. Gently tap the pot to level the compost.



3. Use the dibber to make holes in the centre of the pots.



4. Use the dibber or a small spoon to remove the seedlings from the seed tray.



5. Gently separate the seedlings.

PRICKING OUT

INSTRUCTIONS:



6. Place the seedling in a plug tray or pot.



7. Gently firm the roots by patting down.



8. Place the pot in a watering tray and water from above.



9. Place the pot in sunlight.

POTTING ON



Potting on provides more room for your seedlings roots to grow and fresh nutrients with new compost.

POTTING ON

YOU WILL NEED:



Plants in pots



Watering tray



Same size pot



Plant labels + pencil



Larger pot



Watering can



Compost

POTTING ON

INSTRUCTIONS:



1. Put a handful of fresh compost in the larger pot.



2. Put the smaller pot inside the larger pot. Check that the tops of both pots are level.



3. Fill the gap between the pots with fresh compost.



4. Remove the small pot from inside the large pot.

POTTING ON

INSTRUCTIONS:



5. Gently remove the plant from its pot.



6. Place the plant in the hole in the larger pot.



7. Gently firm in the roots by patting down.



8. Push a name label into the larger pot.

POTTING ON

INSTRUCTIONS:



9. Stand the pot in a watering tray and water it from above.



10. Place the pot in sunlight.



11. Take the plant inside before night if frost is still possible or if the plants have not been hardened off.

HARDENING OFF



Hardening off gets young plants strong enough to live outdoors. This helps them cope with different temperatures, rain and wind.

YOU WILL NEED:



Plants in pots

HARDENING OFF

INSTRUCTIONS:



1. Wait until late spring to avoid frost.



2. If needed, water the plants before placing them outside.



3. Put the plants outside during the day in a sunny location that isn't windy.



4. Bring the plants inside after a time outside (even an hour outside will help make them stronger).

HARDENING OFF

ALTERNATIVE HARDENING OFF:

This method recreates wind indoors.



1. Wait until late spring to avoid frost.



2. Fan the plants indoors with paper to create airflow and to gently move them about.

PLANTING OUT



PLANTING OUT

YOU WILL NEED:



Plants



Spade



Kneeler



Fork



Trowel



Watering can



Hand fork



Wheelbarrow
(optional)



Trugg/bucket

PLANTING OUT

INSTRUCTIONS:



1. Put the plants where you want to plant them.



2. Press the bottom of each pot lightly into ground to leave a circle.



3. Dig a hole in the ground where the circle mark is.



4. Check if the hole is deep enough for the pot to fit in it.

PLANTING OUT

INSTRUCTIONS:



5. Remove the plant from its pot.



6. Place the plant in the hole.



7. Firm the plant into the hole very gently - don't break the stem.



8. Repeat the process with the other plants.

WATERING INDOORS

Watering seedlings and young plants is best done from underneath the pot or tray. This encourages them to grow deeper roots.

YOU WILL NEED:



Watering tray



Watering can



Plants

INSTRUCTIONS:



1. Place the plant in the watering tray.



2. Fill the watering tray with the watering can.



3. Stop and remove any excess water from the tray once the plant feels heavy to lift.

WATERING OUTDOORS



Watering is particularly important when establishing new plants. Try to water the plants and not the surrounding soil to reduce the emergence of weeds. The watering can's rose is very important. It stops you damaging soil and plants with heavy flows of water.

YOU WILL NEED:



Watering can

WATERING OUTDOORS

INSTRUCTIONS:



1. Fill the watering can from the tap.



2. Water the plants near the roots.

FEEDING



Feeding plants with special plant food during the watering process encourages healthy growth.

YOU WILL NEED:



Watering can



Plant feed

FEEDING

INSTRUCTIONS:



1. Fill the watering can from the tap.



2. Add plant feed according to the instructions on the bottle or box. Gently shake the watering can to mix.



2. Water the plants near the roots.

WEEDING WITH A LONG-HANDLED FORK



Weeding, or removing plants you do not want, leaves more sunlight, water and nutrients for the plants you do want.

WEEDING WITH A LONG-HANDLED FORK

YOU WILL NEED:



Fork



Rake



Trugg/bucket



**Wheelbarrow
(optional)**

WEEDING WITH A LONG-HANDLED FORK

INSTRUCTIONS:



1. Place the fork in the ground next to the weed.



2. Push the handle of the fork down towards your feet until the weed lifts up from the soil.



3. Take out the weed.



4. Shake the soil off the weed's roots.



5. Place the weed in a trugg/bucket.

WEEDING WITH A LONG-HANDLED FORK

INSTRUCTIONS:



6. Rake over the weeded area.



7. Clean the tools and put them away.

WEEDING WITH A HAND FORK



YOU WILL NEED:



Kneeler



Trugg/bucket



Hand fork

WEEDING WITH A HAND FORK

INSTRUCTIONS:



1. Position the kneeler and find a comfortable position.



2. Place the hand fork in the ground next to the weed.



3. Push the handle of the hand fork down until the weed lifts up.



4. Take out the weed.



5. Shake the soil off the weed's roots.

WEEDING WITH A HAND FORK

INSTRUCTIONS:



6. Place the weed in a trugg/bucket.



7. Clean the tools.

WEEDING WITH A HOE

YOU WILL NEED:



Hoe



Trugg/bucket

WEEDING WITH A HOE

INSTRUCTIONS:



1. Hold the hoe like a broom.



2. Put the hoe on top of the soil.



3. Push forward, cutting down small weeds.



4. Place the weed in a trugg/bucket.



5. Clean and put away the tools.

DEADHEADING



Deadheading stops the flower going to seed. The plant will grow more flowers to try to make more seeds. Cutting the flower off in the right place is really important for helping more flowers to grow.

YOU WILL NEED:



Scissors or secateurs

DEADHEADING

INSTRUCTIONS:



1. Find dead flowers.



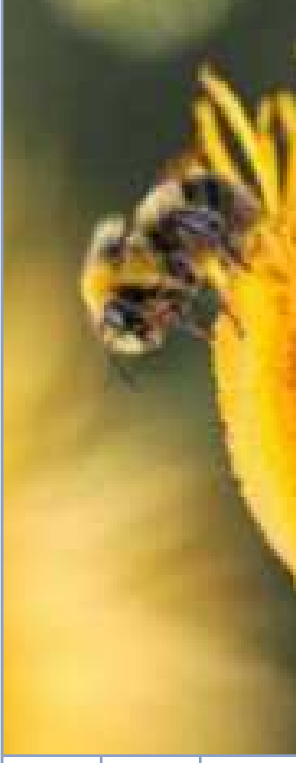
2. Look down the flower's stem and find the first set of leaves.



3. Cut the stem just above the first set of leaves to remove the flower.

RECORDING INSECTS AND POLLINATORS

Your garden will attract different insects and pollinators.



Bees	
Honeybee	
Bumble Bee	
Solitary Bee	
Butterflies	
Tortoiseshell	Comma
Cabbage White	Painted Lady
Small White	Meadow Brown
Large White	Holly Blue
Peacock	Orange Tip
Red Admiral	Small Copper



RECORDING INSECTS AND POLLINATORS

Your garden will attract different insects and pollinators.

Moths	
Silvery Moth	Burnished Brass
Six-Spot Burnet	Cinnabar
Hummingbird Hawkmoth	Angle Shades
Garden Tiger	Elephant Hawk Moth
Hoverfly	
Marmalade Hoverfly	
Brown Hoverfly	
Bumblebee Hoverfly	



RECORDING INSECTS AND POLLINATORS

Your garden will attract different insects and pollinators.

Beetle

False Oil Beetle

Red Soldier Beetle

Longhorn Beetle

Thick-Legged Flower Beetle



Wasp

Common Wasp

Tree Wasp

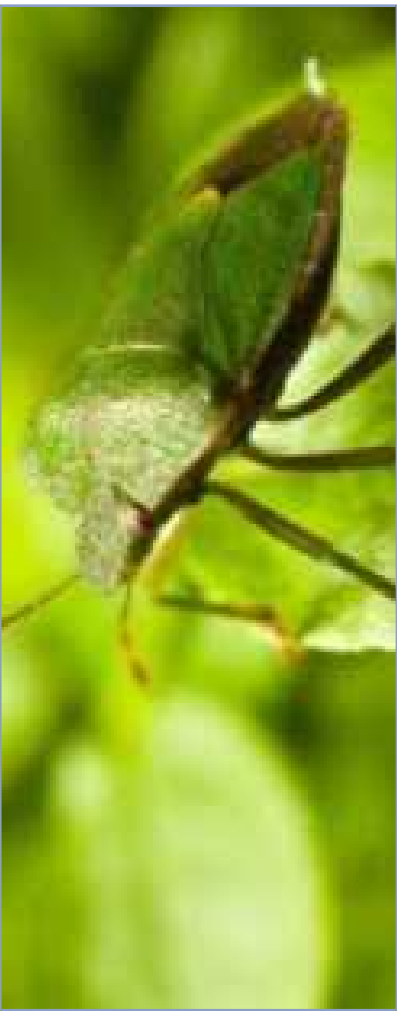
Rudd's Ruby-tailed Wasp



Crane Fly



Shieldbug Fly



Garden Spider



Woodlouse



Centipede



PRESSING FLOWERS



YOU WILL NEED:



Flower press or large book – tissue or blotting paper

PRESSING FLOWERS

INSTRUCTIONS:



1. Cut healthy flowers or leaves from the plant (the flatter it is to start with the better).



2. Place in a flower press with tissue paper on each side like a sandwich, with the flower as the filling.



3. Leave for 1-6 months to dry out and then carefully remove from the tissue.