



Grow With It

Come together and grow
for our changing climate



rhs.org.uk/growwithit

Welcome to Grow With It!



Thank you for your interest in Grow With It! This programme is all about supporting people to make better growing choices, while also inviting you to contribute your experiences and findings. Our focus for 2024 is on water usage, so that we can learn how communities and schools are growing and watering their plants, and support everyone to achieve success in our changing climate.

By [signing up to Grow With It](#), you will be taking the first step in this year's journey – with plenty of support, activities and fun to come. This booklet will give you a taste of the physical pack you'll receive when you sign up.

What's in your welcome pack?

When you [sign up](#) to Grow With It you'll receive a physical welcome pack including:

- Your own welcome booklet, which will give you more information on Grow With It
- A selection of seeds to help you take part
- A handy wall chart to track the progress of your plants
- A poster to display in your space to let your community know you are taking part

Spotlight on water

Throughout Grow With It, we'll be trying to answer the big question:

How can we make better growing choices in a changing climate?

We all need to think about how climate change will affect what and how we grow, and climate change is already beginning to influence the weather and seasonal conditions in the UK. Our gardens can help us to deal with the impact of extreme weather events, such as flash flooding and periods of drought. Adopting new ways of growing can help us save energy and water, store carbon and alleviate flooding.

A survey conducted of the UK gardening public in 2013 found that **drought and waterlogging** are viewed as the most important issues to address for the future of gardening.¹



1. Webster E, Cameron RWF and Culham A (2017) *Gardening in a Changing Climate*, Royal Horticultural Society, UK.

Here are our top tips for collecting and saving water in your garden:

- 1 Use a water butt to collect rain water
- 2 Place drip trays or saucers beneath pots
- 3 Add mulch around new plants
- 4 Add homemade compost to your soil
- 5 Choose the right plant for the right place
- 6 Avoid watering any lawns
- 7 Use self-watering containers
- 8 Choose permeable paving, or swap paving for plants
- 9 Use a watering can instead of a hose where possible
- 10 Water plants in the early morning or evening



Drip trays beneath pots save 5 litres per pot per year!



What do you need to do to take part?

By reading this, you're already on your way! Once you have received your welcome pack, the next step is to get sowing and growing. Take part in the **Big Seed Sow (29 April – 12 May)** and bring your community together to sow your seeds. Don't worry if you're not ready to sow or have never done this before, there's still lots you can do to connect with your community, and get growing when you're ready!



Throughout your growing journey, you'll be asked to submit data on how your plants are doing and how you are caring for them. This data will appear on our interactive map to help understand how people are growing and connecting through plants locally. We'll also be releasing support and resources throughout the year to help you get the most from your plants, and engage others in your community.



In Autumn, we'll invite you to take part in the **Big Seed Save**, supporting you to collect seeds from your plants and build your own seed library for future growing, or to share with others.

The seeds

This year's seeds have been selected as they are better at coping in dry conditions, to help you reduce the amount of water needed to grow them. These varieties have also been chosen for having other qualities and uses, such as being brilliant as a cut flower in a bouquet, preferred by pollinators, or bringing you an edible harvest.

Californian poppy 'Carmine King'



Love-lies-bleeding



Cosmos bipinnatus
'Candy Stripe'



Rudbeckia hirta
Gloriosa Daisies



Fennel 'Di Firenze'



[Sign up](#) for your physical welcome pack, which will include more guidance on hosting a Big Seed Sow event, and how to sow your seeds to get them off to the best start.

The map

Our interactive Grow With It map will use geospatial technology to display the collective action and impact of community growers taking part. You'll be able to contribute data on your plants and experiences to this map – and see how others are growing all over the UK!

Don't worry! Adding your data is very simple and straightforward. You can submit to the map online by answering a few quick questions on one or two varieties you are growing, and how they are doing at various points throughout the year - we'll remind you when it's time, so keep an eye on your emails.

You'll also have the opportunity to submit photographs and share your experiences and activities to the map – make sure you share with us what you're up to throughout the year so that we can see how everyone is connecting, sharing and learning!



#RHSGrowWithIt

Ready to Grow With It?

Sign up now to receive your welcome pack and seeds – and get growing!



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