

Planting herbs to support pollinators

Growing herbs is a great way to provide vital food for pollinators such as bees, butterflies and other insects. They smell great and you can use them to cook with too.

What you will need

Herb seeds such as oregano, lavender, chives, rosemary, parsley
Compost
Old plastic containers such as yogurt pots, milk cartons, any plastic tubs

Instructions

- 1 Rinse out the containers and add a couple of holes for drainage in the bottom of each container.
- 2 Fill with compost, leaving 1-2cms at the top for watering.
- 3 If the seeds are small, sprinkle them over the top of the compost and cover with another thin layer of compost. If the seeds are larger, make holes with your finger in the compost, drop a seed into each and cover over.
- 4 Water and leave to grow. If you are growing them inside, stand them on a plate to catch the drips (you can also use cut away milk cartons on their side for this).
- 5 As the plants grow, you may need to transplant them to larger pots or into the soil outside. Keep them watered, but don't over water them. Remember, once established, herbs don't need lots of water.

