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March 2018

Dear School Gardening Group

Grow Your Own Food Challenge

Do you have a garden at your school? Are your children really excited each year by the produce they grow and the food they create from it? Then why not join with other schools from the area and show off your produce at the Driffield Show in July?

We challenge your gardening group to grow a variety of vegetables and, if you wish, create food products from them. They are then asked to display a selection of them at the Driffield Show along with an A1 poster and, if you wish, a diary describing the year's growing experience.

This year there is also an opportunity to create and build a bug hotel and display it at the show. The 'hotel' can be any size but must be designed to encourage wildlife, especially invertebrates, into your school garden.

Sponsors of the competition, Yorkshire Peas, will be providing generous prizes to enable winning schools to purchase gardening equipment or other materials to assist the growing experience of their pupils. Rules of the competition are attached.

The Show itself is a wonderful educational experience for school children offering the opportunity to view farming, food production and countryside activities. It will be held on Wednesday July 18th and the competition will be in the Horticulture Marquee. Entries can be brought to the showground on Tuesday 17th July between 2pm and 9pm or before 9am on Wednesday 18th July. If you will have difficulty getting your exhibit to the show arrangements can be made to collect it from your school. A number of free tickets can be allocated to school gardening clubs and accompanying staff. This year after much discussion all accompanied children under 12 will get free access to the Driffield Show, those between 12 and 16 will be charged £3 in advanced and £4 on the gate, so buy your tickets early! If you're coming by coach then your driver also gets in free. An entry form is attached which either should be returned directly to me or to the show office.

I hope I can look forward to receiving an entry from your school.

Yours sincerely

Gill Butler, Horticulture Secretary

Horticulture Secretary
Mrs G. M. Butler
Moor Edge House
Brandesburton
Driffield
East Yorkshire
YO25 8LT, Tel. 01964 542959, Email: mooredgehouse@yahoo.com

YOUNG GROWERS' CHALLENGE

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ENTRY FORM

School

Address

.....

.....

Telephone

Name of Contact at School

Email address

We would like to enter :-

Challenge One - Garden Produce Display **Yes / No**

Challenge Two - Bug Hotel **Yes / No**

Please return to:-

Mrs G. Butler
Horticulture Secretary
Driffield Agricultural Society
Moor Edge House
Brandesburton
Driffield
East Yorkshire
YO25 8LT

or

Mrs G. Butler
Horticulture Secretary
Driffield Agricultural Society
The Showground
Kelleythorpe
Driffield
East Yorkshire
YO25 9DN

or by email to
mooredgehouse@yahoo.com

It would be appreciated if entries could be received by 8th May 2018

Young Growers' Challenge

Tips on Growing Vegetables

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Runner Beans

Plant in Early May
Plant 5cm deep, seeds 12cm apart within row, rows 45cm apart
Regular watering will be needed
Train plants up canes and string
Approximate time sowing to picking: 12-14 weeks
Harvest July to October
Pull when bean pod reaches approx. 15cm long but before beans swell
Hint: Runner Beans will grow tall; we suggest plant either north or east side of garden to avoid shading out other crops

Carrots

Plant late March onwards
Plant 1.5cm deep, seeds 1-2cm apart within row, rows 30cm apart
Water during periods of dry weather to keep ground damp
Approximate time sowing to picking: 12-16 weeks
Harvest June to November
Hint: When harvesting select alternate carrots to allow some to grow larger for later in season

Courgettes

Plant April onwards
Plant 1.5cm deep, rows 60cm apart
Water ground around the plant not over the top
Approximate time sowing to picking: 10-14 weeks
Harvest July to October
Cut when courgette reaches approx. 10cm long
Hint: Courgettes do well in well fertilised/mucked soil

Lettuce

Plant late March onwards
Plant 1cm deep, thinly in row, rows 30cm apart
Thin out to 25cm apart
Approximate time from sowing to picking: 14 weeks
Harvest late June to October
Cut when the lettuce has formed a firm heart
Hint: Test Lettuce by pressing the top of the plant with the back of your hand, squeezing the lettuce/heart can cause damage

Onions

Plant mid March onwards
Push set gently into soft earth so tips just showing, 10cm apart within row, rows 25cm apart
Approximate time from sowing to lifting: 22 weeks
Harvest July-September
Lift onions when leaves have gone yellow and die back
Hint: Onions can be dried for use later in the year

Peas

Plant early April onwards
Plant 5cm deep, seeds 3cm apart within row, rows 15cm apart
Harvest late June – July
Pick when pod is well fitted but still a small air space between peas
Hint: Freeze within one half hours of picking. Blanch for a few minutes before freezing

Potatoes

Plant mid April
Plant 12cm deep, potatoes 30cm apart within row, rows 60cm apart
Water liberally during dry periods
Approximate time from sowing to lifting: 13-22 weeks
Harvest July-August
Hint: Keep soil banked high up potato plant to avoid potatoes going green

Radish

Plant late March onwards
Plant 1cm deep, seeds 1-3cm apart within rows, rows 15cm apart
Approximate time from sowing to lifting: 3-6 weeks
Pull when radish is 2.5cm across
Harvest late May – August
Hint: Succession planting is a must to extend harvest season

DRIFFIELD SHOW

Wednesday 18th July 2018

YOUNG GROWERS' CHALLENGE

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CHALLENGE ONE

- Display **produce** grown at school by the pupils. Products made using items grown in the school garden can also form part of the display.
- Display a poster (**preferably A1 size & PORTRAIT orientation**), produced at school by the children, depicting the growing experience. A diary may also be created and displayed.

All produce must be grown on the school premises.

You will be allocated **an area approximately one metre wide in which to stage your display.**

CHALLENGE TWO

Create a Bug Hotel suitable to place in a school garden. The 'hotel' must be designed to attract wildlife, especially invertebrates., to your school garden.

You could use old bark, holes in dead wood, gaps between rocks, hollow plant stems, spaces in dead logs – all these can provide a home for small creatures that need somewhere to nest or to escape from predators or bad weather.

It should be accompanied by information (e.g. a diary, poster, notes or photographs) explaining its usages and the design process.

Details of space required must be given to the organisers prior to the show.

Items must be displayed for judging in the Horticultural Marquee at the Driffield Agricultural Show by 9.00am on Wednesday 18th July.

They can also be brought to the show on Tuesday 17th July between 2pm and 9pm. Collection can be arranged if you have difficulties getting your exhibit to the show.

For further information on the competition please contact Gill Butler, Horticulture Secretary on 01964 542959