

GARDEN COMPETITION

Children who are not able to raise an animal for Agricultural Day are encouraged to enter the Garden Competition. Garden entries are counted towards Agricultural Day Badges. A record of the students entries (for both gardens and animals) is kept and badges are awarded for the successful completion of 3, 5 and 7 years of entries. These badges are awarded at one of the end of year prizegivings.

The garden should be your child's own effort, but obviously very young children will need help from parents. Whenever possible, try and do things with your child rather than for them. In this way they will learn good techniques and enjoy the rewards of gardening. Planting should be done during the October school holidays but not later than Labour Weekend so that the plants are established by late November. The judges will be looking for strong, healthy plants. Gardens can grow either vegetables, flowers, herbs or succulents or a mixture of these.

Entry forms will be available from the school office early in Term 4 and are on the school website. Entries should be placed in the drawer in the school office no later than Friday 6 November. You will need to provide your address and a detailed description of where to find your child's garden. Please ensure your child's garden is clearly marked when the judges come to judge.

Size of Plot

There is not a set size the garden needs to be, just make use of whatever space is available. If possible, your child should have a definite plot set aside so that there is no confusion between their plot and the general garden.

Planting

At least 6 varieties of vegetables or flowers are desirable to provide a range. Children may wish to grow plants from seed or purchase seedlings from a garden centre. Remember to protect your seedlings from late frosts and slugs and snails. If you are using commercial slug and snail bait ensure that your pets are not able to eat this as it is highly toxic to them.

Maintenance

The garden should be kept clear of weeds, the soil kept loose between the rows.

Judging

Judging is done by independent judges in late November/early December. Children will be divided into classes—the size and age group of the class will depend on the entries received. Gardens are judged on Quality of Layout, Freedom from Weeds, Plant Condition, Number of Varieties and most importantly Obvious Child Effort. Each class will have a 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Highly Commended rosette. Effort ribbons will be given to children who do not receive one of these prizes. Prizes are awarded at one of the end of year prizegivings. The Champion & Reserve Champion Garden prizes will be awarded at the Senior Prizegiving.