



FIVE FUN VEGETABLE GARDEN PROJECTS

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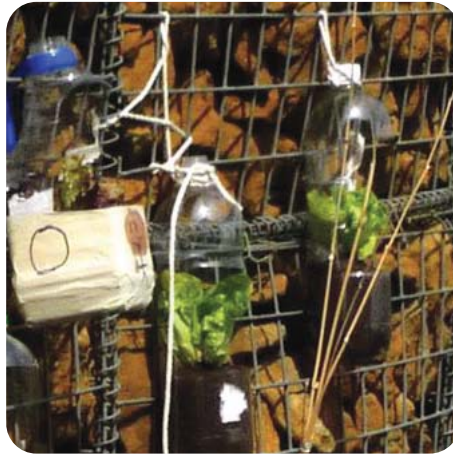
1. THE POTATO BARREL

Why not get an old dustbin or water butt and grow potatoes in it? Make holes in the bottom for drainage then cut circles into the side of the bin, moving up the bin in rows. The holes should be of 25cm circumference and 30cm apart, with the rows also 30cm apart. Fill the bin with compost until it reaches the first row of holes then pop some potatoes on top. Add more compost and continue filling in layers of spuds and soil until your bin is full. Water well and watch your bin slowly turn into a mass of potato leaves, with leaves poking out of the holes around the bin. After 12 weeks simply tip the bin over and harvest your crop!



2. THE EDIBLE WALL

No room to grow vegetables? Why not garden upwards? Fix hanging baskets, pots and troughs to the wall and grow tomato varieties such as 'Tumbler' and 'Hundreds and Thousands' into them. You can also grow herbs; basil, rocket, parsley and coriander. Other good crops are salad leaves and even runner beans. Just remember to water and feed them and you will soon have your own vertical crop.



3. PAINTING WITH VEGETABLES

How about creating a picture with your crop? Using different coloured salad leaves you can 'plant' your school's emblem. Plant a lettuce with a light coloured leaf to mark out the shape of the emblem then use a dark-leaved plant, such as rocket, to make it stand out. If you can plant the 'emblem bed' on a slight slope at the school entrance, visitors will be able to see it more easily.

4. RUNNER BEAN WIGWAM

Make growing beans a bit more interesting by making a bean wigwam using bamboo canes. Angle several long canes to make a wigwam shape leaving one extra big space between canes to act as your 'doorway'. Tie the tops of the canes together. Run string at intervals all the way around your canes to provide the beans with extra support. Plant two beans per cane at the base of your framework then water, feed and wait for your bean wigwam to grow. At harvest time you can crawl inside and pick yourself some beans!

5. HERB HEDGE

Why not make the very most of your vegetable plot or raised bed by edging it with often used herbs? Make a small herb hedge or just plant herbs all the way around your main crops. Your herb hedge can be made of coriander, parsley, marjoram, chives – in fact any herb you like as long as it's not going to block out light to your main crop.

One warning – if you want to plant invasive herbs, like mint, thyme and oregano, make sure they are contained in a pot before popping into the ground, otherwise you'll be digging them out of your veg patch for years to come! area. The following year, rotate these three groups around so that you don't plant the same type of plant in the same spot two years running.

