



## Rural Assignment Companion Garden – Agricultural Day

If your child isn't rearing a lamb, calf, goat, chicken, small animal, or other project they are required to complete a Rural Assignment. That means they can grow a companion garden and keep a diary of the process they follow.

Students need to be aware that all Rural Assignment Companion Gardens are judged in three categories:

***Presentation, Planting, and Diary. Check that your child has covered the set criteria below thoroughly to gain maximum points in each category. For the Presentation part of the category, both the garden and diary are judged against criteria together.***

**(5, 6, or 7 years old at 1st Oct) Junior** children need to have **two** different varieties of vegetable plant e.g. Beans, lettuce and beetroot plants.

**(8, 9, or 10 years old at 1st Oct) Intermediate** children need to have **four** different varieties of vegetable plant e.g. Lettuce, carrots, radishes, cucumber and beans.

**(11, 12, or 13 years old at 1st Oct) Senior** children need to have **six** different varieties of vegetable plant e.g. Broccoli, beetroot, celery, cauliflower, cabbage, kale and garlic.

***PLUS - ALL children will be required to plant two herbs AND one flowering plant with their vegetables that grow well together (companion plants).***

These herbs AND flowering plants will have a **positive impact** on the health and yield of the vegetable plants. To find out what these herbs AND flowering plants might be, your child will need to do some research and this needs to be recorded in their diary as a chart under **'Good and Bad Companions for Vegetables.'**

- **Companion Planting Chart** or **Companion Planting List** To find information go to Google and type in 'Good and bad companions for vegetables', or Companion Gardening to find sites to use for research for your diary. Remember to put into your diary where you sourced the information.
- **Container for your garden:** Because we are a Green Gold EnviroSchool, part of the criteria is that your container must be reused, recycled or upcycled for your garden. Google **'How to build a pallet planter'** for tips on a range of ideas for containers. Whatever you choose to use, remember **you need to be able to transport your garden to school on the Friday the day before Ag Day.**
- The size of the container the garden is grown in, will need to be of an adequate depth (not less than 15 cm) and will need to be of an adequate size to cope with the number of plants they are growing. ***We do prefer that strawberries are NOT grown as a companion as these are classified as a fruit.***

- Planting is best to be done from the end of July/ beginning of August. This allows at least twelve weeks growth for your vegetables. Google [planting calendar](#)

**To gain maximum points, your diary must contain or show evidence of:**

- A title page
- A chart of the types of herbs and/or flowering plants that impact on the health and yield of the vegetables - [Companion Plants Chart](#). This can be printed off and stuck into your diary or handwritten.
- The choice of container (why you chose that container, are you reusing it (how?), is it recycled (how?) or did you upcycle it yourself (how? and what from?))
- How the planting was done (the process you went through to get the plants into the container/s) - written and/or photographic evidence of this.
- What, if any, [fertilizers](#) or [insecticides](#) were used (were these environmentally friendly)?
- Growing conditions and placement in the garden - [planning your garden](#)
- A watering programme - how and when your plants were watered.
- Where the plants originated from e.g. capsicums originated from North America and Europe (**Not** Mitre 10)
- The common and botanical names of all plants e.g. **carrot** (common name), **Daucus carota subsp. sativus** (botanical name).
- The plants in your garden **must** also be labelled with these names - you will lose points if you don't have **both** common and botanical names in your garden.
- Uses for the plants being grown e.g. (salads, sauces, garnishes, medicines, ...) Junior - **must** list at least 3 uses, Intermediate **must** list at least 5 uses, and Senior **must** list at least 7 uses
- Sketches/labels/measurements/graphs of the plant's growing progress.

The Rural Assignment Companion Garden and diaries **are to be handed in on the Friday morning before Agriculture Day** for judging. If you need any further information please see Ms Thompson in Purapura - Sample diaries are available to view at Junior, Intermediate and Senior levels at the front office.

**REMEMBER:** This is to be **YOUR** work **NOT** your parents.

**GOOD LUCK, HAVE FUN AND HAPPY GARDENING**

