

Rural Assignment Companion Garden – Agricultural Day 2020

This year if your child isn't rearing an animal one of the options is for your child 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.

Years 1 to 3 children need to have **two** different varieties of vegetable plant e.g. Beans, lettuce and beetroot plants.

Years 4 to 6 children need to have **four** different varieties of vegetable plant e.g. Lettuce, carrots, radishes, cucumber and beans.

Years 7 and 8 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.

These herbs AND flowering plants will have a good 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 research and this needs to be recorded in their diary as a chart for 'Good and Bad Companions for Vegetables.'

- [Good and Bad Companions for Vegetables 1](#) or [Good and Bad Companions for Vegetables 2](#) can be found by clicking on the links to find information for your diary. If you wish to find more information go to Google and type in 'Good and bad companions for vegetables' to find more sites.
- **Container for your garden:** Because we are a Silver EnviroSchool, part of the criteria is that your container is to be reused, recycled or upcycled for your garden. Refer to [recycled containers for moveable gardens](#) or [recycle for vertical gardens](#) 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 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 will be best done from the end of July/ beginning of August. This allows at least ten weeks growth for your vegetables. Refer to the growing chart at <https://tuigarden.co.nz/planting-calendar/> to help you.

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 - [Good and bad companions](#) 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?))
- 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, ...) Year 1 to 3 - must list at least 3 uses, Year 4 to 6 must list at least 5 uses, and Year 7 to 8 must list at least 7 uses
- Sketches/labels/measurements/graphs of the plants growing progress
- What learning has taken place for you by participating in this task?

The Rural Assignment Companion Garden and diaries **are to be handed in on the morning before Agriculture Day (Friday the 16th October, 2020)** for judging. If you need any further information please see Mrs White in Kahikatea - Sample diaries are available to view at Junior, Intermediate and Senior levels.

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

GOOD LUCK, HAVE FUN AND HAPPY GARDENING

