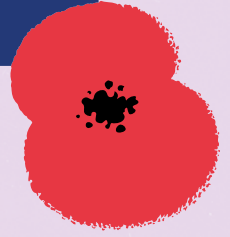


THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION



Tips for Growing Your Remembrance

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TIPS FOR CREATING A REMEMBRANCE GARDEN

Gardens come in all shapes and sizes; whether you have a large outdoor space or just your imagination and craft materials, you can create a Remembrance garden! Read these tips to help you get started (adult supervision will be required for these activities).



Garden craft ideas are a great way of making a Remembrance garden when you have no access to garden materials or space. Try these activities to bring Remembrance to life in your home or classroom:

1. Paper plate poppies—take plain white paper plates and paint or colour the shape of a poppy on them. Attach a paper straw painted green to the plate and with permission, pin the paper plates to a door, wall or display board or put them in jars.
2. Make a nature mobile – find some objects that help you think about nature. Things like pine cones, feathers and dried leaves work well. Attach them to a long stick with string and hang with your Remembrance display to bring nature inside.
3. Hope butterflies - collect four leaves and a twig to make a butterfly as a symbol of hope. You can decorate your leaves with chalk or paint to make the wings. Stick the leaves to the twig, using this for their bodies. You can then display them with your poppies and nature mobiles.
4. Shoebox garden – you can make a whole Remembrance-themed garden using an old shoebox, objects collected from outside and craft materials. Think about using items such as leaves, twigs, paint, tissue paper, foil and pipe cleaners.

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Flowerpots and containers placed on a windowsill or table are an easy way to create a small Remembrance garden in any room in the house or the classroom. Follow these steps:

1. Decide what you want to plant. It could be something as simple as forget-me-nots or poppies from a seed packet. For something even more colourful, choose a flag from one of the Commonwealth countries to represent and plant flowers in those colours. Or perhaps you would like to represent one thought or idea about Remembrance, such as hope, in which case you could plant daffodil bulbs which will flower in Spring.
2. Find a suitable container and if possible, make sure it has some holes and stones in the bottom for drainage. Your container could be as simple as a yoghurt pot, jam jar or a recycled object like an old welly boot. You could use a traditional flowerpot or window box. You could also decorate your container if you want to.
3. Add some compost (special soil that will help plants grow) and some water to make sure it is not dry, then plant your seeds, bulbs or ready-grown plants. Make sure you water it regularly to keep it growing.



Wildflower gardens are a great way to grow flowers, encourage wildlife into the garden and create a space for Remembrance. You don't need a big space, just a patch where the flowers will have space to grow. They also don't need too much looking after and can be a useful way of brightening up an unused patch of ground. You can sow wildflowers in a container too. Many of the flowers in a wildflower garden represent themes of Remembrance, including poppies. Follow these steps to make a wildflower garden:

1. Choose your patch for planting - a sunny spot works best. It's best to plant in Autumn or early Spring.
2. Prepare the ground by getting rid of weeds, leaves and any unwanted plants (you'll need to wear gardening gloves for this if there are stinging nettles or brambles). Then dig over the soil and rake it for a smooth surface.



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3. Once the soil is ready, take your packet of wildflower seeds (which can be found in garden centres or ordered online) and scatter them finely over the surface of the soil, making a thin layer of seeds.
4. Press the seeds into the surface of the soil by walking across it and then water the whole patch and wait for your wildflower garden to grow. You only need to water again if there is a dry or hot spell of weather. Not only will you have a lovely Remembrance wildflower garden, you'll encourage wildlife to visit too.



Artwork for the garden Take your creativity outside and add artwork to your garden to make a feature that will help people think about Remembrance. You'll need to make sure anything you make is waterproof. Try these ideas and add them to your Remembrance space:

1. Thought pebbles—collect some pebbles and draw pictures on them that help people think about Remembrance. You'll need pens to draw with, paint and clear varnish to make your pebble pictures waterproof. Once you've drawn on them, cover with varnish and, when dry, place the pebbles along a path, on a patio, in flowerpots or on your windowsill.
2. Mirror etchings - make your own mirror etching to encourage Remembrance reflection using foil containers. You'll need a circular foil container about 20cm in diameter and a pencil without a point. Using the pencil, etch words on to the 'mirrors' to show what Remembrance means to you. Your 'mirror' can be hung with string, or even strung together as a group along a wall or fence.

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A big garden project

You may have a garden space that you can use at home or in your school. Speak to your parent, carer or teacher at school and ask permission to use the space. You could start a whole-class project to create a Remembrance garden or get your whole family involved. Make sure you ask everyone who will use the garden for their ideas too, so they all feel a part of it. There is a lot to think about in creating a garden, as well as design. You'll need to consider your garden budget (how much money you will need), time, people to help make the garden, sustainability and the environment and who will look after it. You could even find out if there is a space in your local area that could be used for a Remembrance garden and write to your local council to ask their permission. The garden could then be used by the whole community. The Royal Horticultural Society have a School Garden project with lots of ideas that can help you get started here:

www.choolgardening.rhs.org.uk/resources/info-sheet/setting-up-a-school-garden