

Our Living Landscape

Grassland Topic Activity Guide: How to Grow Grass



Aim of activity

To know how to sow seeds and what they need to grow into plants

Resources

Grass seeds
Compost
Flower pots/seed trays/planting containers
Labels for pots (or wooden lolly sticks)
Watering can (or plastic bottle with holes in lid)



Delivery of activity

We recommend teachers prepare for delivering this activity by watching our video 'How to grow grass' [\[click here\]](#). Bear in mind the seed planting will take only a few minutes but the grass will take 7-10 days to germinate (start growing).

A Step by Step Guide:

1. Introduction

Introduce the activity with a few facts which will grab the children's attention, e.g.:

- There are over 10,000 different kinds of grass in the world.
- Corn, wheat, barley, oats, rice and sugar cane are all types of grass.
- The tallest type of grass can grow to 40 metres (120 feet).

2. Key points to get across during the activity

- Grass seed isn't planted like a bulb or a seedling. It is scattered on the surface of the soil. The soil is then lightly raked to mix the seed with the soil.
- Grass is a plant which is made up of four main parts: the roots, the stem and the leaf (also called 'blade'), and the flower.
- In order to grow well, grass needs sunlight, water, nutrients and healthy soil.
- Fields of grass which are grown specially for feeding cattle and sheep are called pastures.

3. Instructions - Outside on a Dry Day

- Fill a flower pot or container with compost
- Press the compost down gently but firmly
- Sprinkle the grass seeds on the surface in a thin layer so they are in contact with the soil.
- Use the watering can (or bottle equivalent) to water the pot. Make sure the seeds are still evenly distributed across the surface and not bunched up on one side of the pot.
- Label each pot/container with Grass, the date and the person's name.
- Leave pots/containers where they will get plenty of sunshine. If it doesn't rain then remember to give them a little watering once or twice a week.



4. Ask the group to consider the following questions...

Why is grass green?

*Like many plants, grass is green because it is full of chemicals which are green. The most important of these chemicals is called **chlorophyll**. Chlorophyll plays a key part in the process called **photosynthesis**, by which the grass uses water, air and light from the sun to make its own food to help it grow.*



Why is the South West of England a good place for growing grass?

The South West has a temperate climate (i.e. mild and wet): sunshine and showers make for ideal grass-growing country for dairy cows, beef cattle and sheep to graze upon. In the South West cows can graze on the grass from April through to October or November, depending on the weather.

What kinds of wildlife can be found in grassland?

*Grassland provides different habitats for a range of native species. Birds of prey, such as owls and buzzards, hunt small mammals which hide in tall grasses. A wide variety of **invertebrates** (creatures without a backbone), such as spiders and beetles, also form part of the **food chain**. Where the grassland includes wildflowers, **pollinators** such as bees and butterflies can also flourish in the summer months.*

Additional Activities and Further Information

- Ted Hughes nature poems: Hay, Cow II, available at: <https://www.fwagsw.org.uk/Pages/FAQs/Category/ted-hughes-poems>
- Grow and compare other types of edible plants e.g. sunflowers, nasturtiums, lettuce, rocket
- RPSB What do different birds sound like: www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/bird-a-z/
- Wildlife Trusts Spotter Guides for butterflies and birds: <https://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/animal-habitats/grassland>
- Wiltshire Wildlife Making homes and habitats for wildlife: <https://www.wiltshirewildlife.org/Pages/Category/actions-to-help-wildlife>