

Beavers Gardener Badge

Help To Look After A Garden Or Allotment For Three Months. Keep A Record Of What You Have Done And The Changes You See. You Could Draw Pictures, Write Short Sentences And Take Photographs

My Garden Diary[©]

By Samantha Eagle

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Overview

If you are fortunate enough to have a garden at your meeting place that the children can look after each week you meet then great. Give them little jobs to do and show them how to use the tools needed in a safe way.

I'm going to assume that you have no facilities so for this task I'm suggesting that each Beaver makes their own miniature garden that they can take home and look after. I've tried to help as much as I can without being too rigid in my suggestions, because what you do with the kids will all be down to your budget. So here's my suggestions...

Preparation Before The Meeting

1. Collate the materials for the project
2. Print out the 'Miniature Garden Ideas' to give the children some ideas
3. Print out the 'Gardener Record' sheet – found in this document you need one for each child

Materials Needed

- Container, Seeds, Soil, Plants (if you have the budget) – See below Step 3. for more info on this

Directions

Step 1 - Choosing a container

- Firstly you need to decide on which container to use. This will depend on your budget and what you can get hold of.
- You can probably get a garden centre to donate unwanted plastic trays that you can use as the base.
- As a last resort you can use cut down boxes but cover them with foil.
- Whatever you decide make sure you have drainage holes in the bottom. And a tray for it to sit on.



Step 2 - Fill the container with soil

- The amount will depend on the size of tray you have chosen

Step 3 - Planting

- Select plants which will retain a miniature size. The challenge here will be your budget because buying miniature plants for 20 plus children will be very costly so I thought it would be best to design their garden using seeds. This will be more exciting in the long run because they will see the plants establish.
- When you decide what seeds to grow jot down the instructions and care instructions to give to the children. It will be more cost effective and easier for you if they all grew the same plants

- Depending on the size of the bases you get hold of will depend on their design. But it would be good to have a mixture of effects. For example...
 - In one section they could grow some grass and have a miniature lawn that they can mow with scissors
 - In one corner they could grow a vegetable
 - In another corner a plant or a flower
 - And maybe lay a tiny path down the middle
- I have given you just a selection of plants that will grow well in a miniature garden.
 These can be found online or at most well stocked garden centres. Don't drive yourself mad trying to find the exact ones I've suggested. Just go into your local garden centre and ask them if they can recommend a selection of seeds that you can use for miniature gardens.

Selection Of Plants That Will Grow Well In Miniature Gardens

Name	Notes	What it looks like
Moon Valley Friendship Pilea Plant	This is a fast grower. It reaches a height of about 12 inches. The delicate pink flowers make this plant just right for your mini landscape.	
Spider Fern	This has glossy leaves and a broad yellow centre band of each leaf which makes this plant visually very interesting.	
Arabis sturii	A great, low mat of dense juicy green plant and small white flowers, it is easy to grow and tolerates part shade. Wonderful for the mini garden.	
Elfin thyme	A thick, ground-cover mat-forming herb with greenish grey leaves and a nice aroma.	
Rosemary	A wonderful herb; keep it trimmed to look like a small shrub or tree.	
Blue Star Juniper	This is a miniature evergreen shrub, perfect for a mini garden. It is not a flowering shrub but they have very attractive bluish-silver needles which enhance the look and beauty of your garden even more. Low watering and maintenance is needed.	

Miniature Carrots	Here's one website that I found that sell miniature plant/vegetable seeds. I like this site because it tells you how to sow and grow, care and cultivate what you buy. And gives you a Sowing/Planting and Flowering/Harvesting Guide. http://www.mr-fothergills.co.uk/Vegetable-Seeds/Carrot-Seed/Carrot-Paris-Market-5-Atlas-Seeds_2.html#.Vznzo4RcRBf	
Cress	Cress seeds are great for mini gardens. They are really easy to grow and can be eaten.	
Alyssum Seeds	Produces a carpet of white flowers. Easy to grow and very cheap.	
Dwarf Campanula	Campanula plants are a very effective and reliable plant. They are fast growing and will spread quickly. Easy to care for and low maintenance is required.	

Adding extra bits to your garden...

Fence

You can make a fence using twigs. This will be good if you want to create sections in the garden to separate the meadow (grass) from the vegetable section.



Paths

Gravel and small stones can be used for paths.

Ponds

Lids from food jars filled with blue stones. You can also put 'tin foil' or a 'small mirror' in the lid to create a pond.

See the pictures on the next page for more ideas.

Here's Some Pictures Of Miniature Gardens To Give You Some Ideas



Herb Garden



GARDENER RECORD

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In addition take a picture each week of your garden and write the week number on the back. If it's not possible to print out pictures you can make a drawing of the changes you've seen.

	What did you do this week (watering, weeding etc.)	Describe any changes you saw	What tools did you use?
Month 1			
Week 1			
Week 2			
Week 3			
Week 4			
Month 2			
Week 1			
Week 2			
Week 3			
Week 4			
Month 3			
Week 1			
Week 2			
Week 3			
Week 4			