

# Herb Pots

Home-grown herbs will add delicious flavours to your cooking and can also be used as an attractive garnish. Herbs can be grown in pots that can be kept on a balcony, windowsill or in a handy position outside, close to your kitchen. Choose herbs that you use a lot in your cooking, they do well when picked frequently.



## Resources

- Prepared containers
- Growing medium, eg compost
- Plants
- Watering can

## Work safely

Use the correct lifting and handling technique when moving containers. Be careful when handling compost and soil, washing hands afterwards. Ensure appropriate adult supervision.

## Activity

1. Plan what size containers you will need for your chosen herbs. Plant smaller herbs such as thyme, chives and marjoram together in larger containers. Position larger herbs, eg bay and rosemary, at the back/centre of a container or in their own larger pot.
2. Follow planting instructions below, adapting as required for your chosen containers and plants.

## Extended activity

Ask pupils whether they recognise aromas from different herbs and can suggest uses. Often pupils are surprised by how many herbs they already eat/use without even realising.



# Instructions for planting herbs in a pot

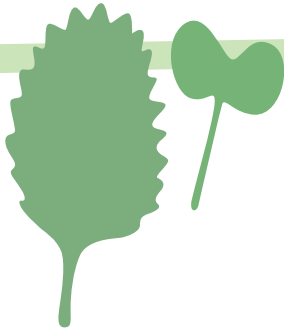


## Instructions

- 1.** Add 1-2cm wide drainage holes if the container doesn't have any (at least five per 30cm<sup>2</sup>). Also put a 5-10cm layer of coarse materials at the bottom to improve the drainage, eg gravel.
- 2.** For growing medium use peat-free potting compost.
- 3.** Water plants thoroughly before planting and leave to drain.
- 4.** Start adding the growing medium to the container, firming lightly with fingertips. Continue filling until you reach the same depth as the bottom of the pots you're transplanting, allowing for 2.5cm gap at the top of the container for watering.
- 5.** To remove plants from pots, turn over and support the stem with a finger on either side, gently squeezing the sides and bottom of the pots to loosen the root ball so it falls out whole.



## Instructions for planting herbs in a pot continued



**6.** Put the plant in the container and infill with a little growing medium to secure.

**7.** Continue transplanting until the container is full, infilling and firming the growing medium until all the root balls are covered.

**8.** Water the container well and always keep the growing medium moist (but not wet).

### Top tip

Getting water to deeper roots

If using larger containers, bury a small pot so it's level with the surface. Add water through this pot; the water will drain through the holes and reach deeper roots.



[giveitagrow.gardenorganic.org.uk](http://giveitagrow.gardenorganic.org.uk)