



FIELD TO SCHOOL

Beekeeping in school

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Establishing beekeeping in school

First establish whether there is an interest in having bees at school.

Perhaps some of the staff are interested in starting up the project, but there may also be parents or beekeepers in the neighbourhood with whom the school can cooperate.





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Start-up considerations

- Who will have overall responsibility?
- What will the project cost?
- Attend a beekeeping course
- Find a good place for the beehives
- Consider allergies among students
- Share ideas with the parents
- Find a room for equipment
- Source the bees and equipment





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Activities

Bees are fascinating creatures. The many sages of their lives, the organisation of the bee hive and their connection with flowers means that beekeeping is a learning project that can be linked to many curriculum subjects throughout the school year.





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Bee-friendly school gardens

Planting bee friendly flowers in the school garden is a great way to help these pollinators. The flowers can also be used for bouquets in the classroom.

You need:

A growing space, flower boxes or pots, organic soil and bee friendly seeds.





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Some bee-friendly flowers:

Marigolds, lavender, sunflowers, echinacea, thyme, borage, sage, raspberries, red and black currants, gooseberries, roses, nasturtiums, Phacelia.

TIPS!

Sow different types of flowers at various times of the year so that the bees always have flowers to visit.





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MAKING LIP BALM

You will need:

- 1 litre flower oil (next slide)
- 140-150g beeswax
- Essential oils such as lavender
- Small containers





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Flower oil recipe

You will need: A clean glass jar, flowers and oil (sunflower or almond oil)

What to do: Pick the flowers on a sunny day and fill the glass jar. Pour the oil over the flowers until all are covered. Place the jar in the sun for around 4 weeks.

Flowers that can be used:

- Calendula (marigolds)
- Roses
- Lavender
- Camilla

If the flower petals contain too much moisture, they might get mouldy. It is often better to dry the petals before covering them with oil.





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LIP BALM



How to make it:

- Once you have made your flower oil, mix it with warmed beeswax at a ratio of 1 part oil to 7 parts beeswax. The wax should be warmed up in a water bath to enable mixing (can be adjusted to how stiff the salve should be).
- Stir during the warming process. Remember that the wax melts at 68 degrees C. The mixture must not boil!
- When the beeswax mix has melted, take the mixture out of the water bath and let it cool to 35 degrees C. Now you can add a drop or two of essential oils to create a scent.
- Pour the mixture rapidly into the small containers. Let the salve/balm cool until it is cold and stiff and it will sink down a bit in the middle.
- Fill more until you get a fine and smooth surface.
- Put on the lid and a label.





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BEE'S WRAP

This wrapping holds sandwiches fresh during the school day and is a much more sustainable material than plastic bags.

You need:

- Bee wax
- Jojoba oil
- A button
- Organic cotton textile
- String
- An iron
- Wax paper





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How to do it:

- Cut the size and shape you wish to have, eg 35 cm x 35 cm.
- Lay the textile on the wax paper and spread the hard wax over it, using pellets or small bits of wax plates.
- Spread around 30 drops of jojoba oil on the textile and cover with wax paper.
- Iron over the wax paper so that the bees wax and oil is taken up by the textile. If there is too little bees wax, lay more on the bare area.
- While the textile is still warm, you take off the waxpaper and dry it.
- Sew the button on and tie the string to it.

TIPS! This wrapping can be washed by hand with cold water and soap. It can be used for a year. It must be protected from warm surfaces.

