



**FIELD
TO SCHOOL**

ROLLING SCHOOL GARDEN

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WHY MAKE A ROLLING GARDEN?

- In many schools with hard and paved surfaces, it can be difficult to find enough soil for growing.
- In addition, a lack of light and space can be a problem.
- The rolling school garden can be an easy entry for those who want to start growing with the students.





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LOTS OF WAYS TO DO IT

We started with re-cycled strollers, but discovered that the weight made them unstable.

A cheap trolley on four wheels then became the starting point.



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LOTS OF WAYS TO DO IT!



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THIS IS HOW SOME OF THE SCHOOLS DID IT

You will need:

- A small trolley
- A bottom tray to collect water, so that the garden doesn't leak in the classroom.
- A frame of around 50cm x 100cm and 50cm x 60cm high.
- Optional. A plexiglass window for insulation, making it into a small greenhouse.





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HOW TO USE THE ROLLING SCHOOL GARDEN

- It can be used as a miniature garden, perhaps for herbs. The advantage is that it can be taken in and out of the classroom according to weather and holidays, and rolled home in the summer when it needs more watering.
- Germination can start in the classroom and the garden can then be moved out when the temperatures rise. In this way the growing season will be longer and the students can observe the plant's development from seed to table.





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WHAT ABOUT SOIL? HOW TO FILL THE ROLLING SCHOOL GARDEN

- It is good to have leaves and/or sawdust (mixed with some manure such as chicken manure) in the bottom of the box (10-15 cm deep and well packed). This ensures good drainage.
- Then fill with good, peat free garden soil (30-35 cm deep).
- If you want to sow directly, it is good to spread an even layer of fine sand on the top so you can see where the sowing holes are.





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WARM FRAMES – AN OLD SKILL

- Historically gardeners used warm frames to produce plants in the spring. These were filled with horse manure and urine to generate warmth from the bottom as decomposition occurs.
- Some of the schools found horse manure from a nearby farm and used it to make a warm frame in the rolling school garden. If you use a layer of manure instead of leaves, it will give warmth to the box.
- With plexiglass or glass in the frame, it can stand outside, even when the temperatures are quite cold.





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HOW TO SUCCEED WITH PLANTS INSIDE

If you have the rolling school garden inside, here are some tips for producing healthy plants:

- If there is too little light, the plants will grow long and thin as they stretch toward the window.
- The use of professional growing lamps can guarantee enough of the right kind of light (on the correct wave length).
- The temperature should be around 21 degrees for most plants (the cabbage family prefer it cooler)
- With a timing switch the light can reflect the rhythm of day and night.



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