



The school garden on wheels

Summary of project

Many city schools are limited with the amount of growing space they have for a garden and the soil they have is often in poor quality. However, this should not stop them from improving the soil and using it to grow a garden! As a tool to help schools get started with growing, teachers from seven Oslo schools learnt how to build a garden on wheels for their outdoor spaces.

Who is involved

In Oslo, Norway seven schools learnt about gardening through a training course run by the Norwegian University of Life Sciences. In the course, schools established and learnt to maintain a school garden. In addition, the teachers received tools, methods and inspiration to connect the experiences in the garden to the national curriculum.

Key steps

The school garden on wheels is inspired by an old and well-known installation in the classic garden tradition – the garden cold and warm frame. These frames were used to produce plants without the use of a greenhouse. The frames could be filled with horse manure and at the bottom of the frame in order to produce a warm space for growing under the glass windows. The teachers on the course built the frames on wheels so that the frame can be moved in and out of the classroom and with a plate underneath to catch run-off.

The rolling garden can also be placed outdoors with a plexiglass window that can shelter the plants from cold and strong rainfall. If the school garden on wheel is left in the classroom or when the students are working with the plants, the window can be taken off. The plants that are grown in the rolling school garden can be left to mature and can either be harvested or kept in the box to add colour to the playgrounds.



How is the project linked to food and farming?

This school garden provides an number of opportunities and benefits to growing plants in the school. The first is that the students can begin the work indoors in the winter, before it is possible to work in the garden. The plants can then be rolled out to be hardened-off before being planted out in bigger beds. It is also possible for someone to take the garden on wheels home if there are holidays and watering needs to be done! If the rolling school garden has poor access to light in the classroom, a greenhouse lamp can be hung over the plants. This is usually necessary for all work with plants indoors.





How is the project linked to the school curriculum?

Previously, there were many schools with school gardens where children could make connections to science, language and maths. These days there are fewer school gardens and so, the rolling school garden is an accessible tool that teachers can use to start with a school garden on a scale that corresponds to their possibilities and needs.

