



PUNI SCHOOL

Effort Brings Reward

Horticulture Section for 2022 Country Day

Once again this year we are allowing students to enter the Horticulture Section as one of the 3 options for Country Day.

Students can enter any of the three categories but to be excused from the indoor exhibits and animal section they must enter at least **three** of the four horticulture categories below.

Students with an animal may choose to enter this competition, but do not have to.

In this booklet we have some handy hints about growing plants that are linked to the following categories:

- **Scratch and Sniff** Herb Garden
- **Rainbow of Colour** Flowers planted in an arrangement of your choice
- **'Spud' in a bucket** Potato grown in a bucket
- **'Berry, Berry' Nice** Growing a strawberry plant in a pot

Competition and Organisation

All entries need to be delivered to the school no later than 9am on Friday 23 September for judging. The exact place will be confirmed closer to the time. There will be two judges for all categories. Each student will need to register their plants and will receive a number, that they will place with each plant, so the judges can then collate the points with accuracy.

Categories for the Competition

- The students will be separated by their syndicates.
- There will be a 1st, 2nd and 3rd for each section in each of the four categories for each syndicate.
- Then a 1st, 2nd and 3rd overall school winner.*

*For the overall school winner the judge will use the top three scores (even if they have entered into all four categories).

All entries will be on display with their placing in each section, however we will announce the overall syndicate and school winners during the prizegiving.

Size of the Containers, Pots, Planters etc

We ask that the total area of each entry is no bigger than ½ m² please.

When will they need to start growing?

Any time from now, the sooner the better. We strongly recommend you commence planting any time from the start of July but no later than the end of July 2022.

Outline for each Category

Spud in the Bucket

You will be judged on how well you have followed the instructions (as attached). It will be too soon to dig up the potato on the day, as we want you to enjoy them closer to Christmas.

Rainbow of Colour

You will be judged on your range of colour, the design and/or the arrangement of the flowers and how well the plants have grown. A reminder this is actually growing plants, not a flower arrangement.

Berry, Berry Nice

You will be judged on and how well the plant has grown (including having strawberries their size, colour etc).

Scratch and Sniff

You will be judged on the range of herbs you have grown and how well they have grown.

If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me at school and please remember to make use of the information on the website or a copy at the office.

Good luck and happy growing.

Haydon Brill
PRINCIPAL
PUNI SCHOOL

Growing Flowers in a Planter

You can grow bright and colourful flowers in a planter for Country Day.

You will need:

- A large wooden, plastic or pottery container with drainage holes in the bottom. Don't make it too big, or you will not be able to get it to school!
- Good top soil or compost.
- Between 6 and 10 seedlings. Marigolds are good. So are pansies and polyanthus, but choose anything that you think will look bright and cheerful when they are flowering. Pick plants that have lots of buds, not open flowers.
- A watering can or a hose that reaches your little garden.

When to start:

- Your plants will only flower for about 4 weeks and you want them to look great for Country Day so plant them by the end of July.

What to do when you plant:

- Water the soil thoroughly.
- Dig holes in the soil for each plant.
- Think carefully about which ones will look best in the middle, and which should go at the sides.
- Soak the plants in their pots or tray.
- Carefully lift each little plant out of its pot or tray. If it is hard to pull out, turn the pot upside down and tap it with your trowel. That should make the plant fall out, so make sure you still have your hand around it.
- Put the roots of the plant in the hole and carefully press the soil around the edges. Don't plant it too deeply, but don't leave the roots outside the soil either!
- Put some slug bait or crushed egg shells around the edge of your garden.

Caring for your garden:

- Put your planter in a warm sunny place.
- Water the plants EVERY day.
- Pick off any dead flowers.
- Replace any plants that have finished flowering.

Potatoes in a Bucket

You can grow a spud in a bucket for Country Day.

You will need:

- An older potato that is ready to sprout (or buy a seed potato)
- A bucket
- Compost

When to start

- These should be planted by the end of July.

What to do when you plant:

- Once your spud has shoots and ready to plant you need to rub off all of the shoots except the two strongest and longest.
- Make holes in the bottom of an old bucket. Cover the bottom with stones then add some potting compost
- Push the potato into the compost with the shoots pointing up. Cover it with compost and leave it outside.
- In about four weeks, you'll see some shoots. Cover them with compost and water your bucket.
- Add more and more compost and water every time the shoots appear. Do this until the bucket is full.
- Eventually the flowers will grow. At this stage water your plant often. If a potato appears cover it with some compost.
- After four months (in November or early December) the plant will die off. Tip the compost out and see how many potatoes have grown.

Caring for your potato

- The more foliage the less the potato will grow, keep it covered until the bucket is full.

Growing Herbs in a Planter

You can grow tasty, useful herbs in a planter for Country Day.

You will need:

- A large wooden, plastic or pottery container with drainage holes in the bottom. Don't make it too big, or you will not be able to get it to school!
- Good top soil or compost.
- Between 6 and 10 seedlings. Parsley works well but gets quite big. Chives are good, and so are marjoram and thyme. Basil is pretty tricky at this time of the year.
- A watering can or a hose that reaches your little garden.

When to start:

- Your plants will last for a very long time, so you can start right away!

What to do when you plant:

- Water the soil thoroughly.
- Dig holes in the soil for each plant.
- Think carefully about which ones will look best in the middle, and which should go at the sides.
- Soak the plants in their pots or tray.
- Carefully lift each little plant out of its pot or tray. If it is hard to pull out, turn the pot upside down and tap it with your trowel. That should make the plant fall out, so make sure you still have your hand around it.
- Put the roots of the plant in the hole and carefully press the soil around the edges. Don't plant it too deeply, but don't leave the roots outside the soil either!
- Put some slug bait or crushed egg shells around the edge of your garden.

Caring for your garden:

- Put your planter in a warm sunny place.
- Water the plants EVERY day.
- Pick pieces off for cooking with and prune any that start to get too big.

Strawberries in a Container

You can grow strawberries in a container for Country Day.

You will need:

- A container, preferably light in colour, with drainage holes in the bottom. Rain gutters work well but do not make it too big or you will not be able to get it to school!
- Up to 3 Strawberry plants - do not grow from seed or bare root crown, seedlings are best.
- Potting mix

When to start

- Anytime from now but should be planted by 3 August

What to do when you plant:

- Fill the container with potting mix and water thoroughly.
- Dig holes in the potting mix for each plant
- Soak the plants in their pots, carefully lift each strawberry out of its pot. If it is hard to pull out, turn the pot upside down and tap it with your trowel. That should make the plant fall out, so make sure you still have your hand around it.
- Put the roots of the strawberry in the hole and carefully press the soil around the edges. Don't plant it too deeply, but don't leave the roots outside the soil either! Strawberries have a small root ball so can grow well in smaller containers. Just remember that they spread out in all directions.
- Birds love strawberries so a small fence over them when they start growing fruit will keep your fruit safe!

Caring for your strawberries:

- Place in a warm sunny position so they receive around 6-8 hours of sunlight per day.
- Water the plants when the soil gets dry one inch below the surface. Do not over-water.
- A liquid fertiliser every 3-4 weeks rich in phosphorus will give your plants necessary nutrients for growth.