TASTING
VISIT THE FOOD PRODUCING PARTS OF THE GARDEN

Curricular Links: Science, Literacy, Food Technology and Citizenship

How long will it take?
About 1-1½ hours to visit them all.

What do we need to bring?
Option to use ‘What parts of plant do we eat?’ (KS2) or ‘Seasonal vegetable and fruit’ sheet (KS3).
Pictures of vegetables for groups to decide whether we eat the part above the ground or below the ground.

How do we do it?
Explore the different areas and ask what is growing here? Which part of a plant do we eat? (KS2 & KS3). What would you put in your fruit salad? Which plants are in season? (KS2 & KS3). Do we eat the part that grows above or below the ground? (KS1).

Set the children a challenge: The school cook would like to know which vegetables to use to accompany e.g. sausages or for a tasty salad or herbs for a pizza/spaghetti bolognese. Children could have a plate shape to draw them on (KS1). See Smell for further ideas on the Herb Garden.

Where can we do it?
Fruit Garden, Model Vegetable Garden, Herb Garden, Orchard and Fruit Nursery.

When is the best time?
Late spring, summer and early autumn.

Who will it work best with?
All ages depending on the activity chosen.

Follow-up activity at school
- Make a fruit salad based on those chosen by the children.
- Create graphs of favourite fruit/vegetables. Write questions for a partner to answer from the graph. (KS1 & KS2)
- Plant vegetable seeds.
- Examine some fruits/vegetables in more detail – cut them up, draw them, taste them. Include some exotic fruits not grown at RHS Garden Wisley.
- Discuss air miles and sustainable agriculture (upper KS2 and KS3).
- Buy some Wisley produce from the Plant Centre (summer and early autumn only) and taste them. Buying a variety of apple not sold in the supermarkets is a good idea. Use a literacy lesson to write to a supermarket recommending one of these apples. (KS2)