



Inspiring everyone to grow

This April people are coming together to save the UK's charities. Take on a gardening challenge and support the RHS.

the 2.6 challenge

1 Sow friendships

Propagate plants to give to your friends, family and neighbours.



- 1 Take cuttings from existing plants and give them to friends and neighbours. This works well with indoor plants like succulents and common garden plants like pelargoniums (or geraniums) and fuscias. You can also grow new plants from seed, and label them using cut up milk bottles.
- 2 Give to your family or housemates, or leave on your neighbours doorstep with care cards as a lovely surprise (remember to keep to social distancing). Can you grow 26 new plants to keep or give away?

Completed



2 Grow vegetables for souper soup

Grow a plot or pot of vegetables to turn into soup when harvested.



- 1 Find an area of 1m x 1m, or a few large pots. Find a soup recipe and choose your veg and herbs.
- 2 Plant your veg and care for them until ready to harvest.
- 3 Use your home grown veg to make soup. Share with others or keep for yourself if its too good to share.

Completed



3 Give your bugs a holiday

Make your garden more wildlife friendly and create a bug hotel.



- 1 Explore your garden, gathering all sorts of materials from old canes and tiles, to twigs and moss.
- 2 Fill an old pot or box with your material, making lots of small spaces or different shapes and sizes, dry or damp, for your bugs to enjoy.

Completed



4 Grow sunflowers to brighten your day



- 1 Place 2 sunflower seeds per pot, cover with 1cm compost and leave in a warm place out of direct sunlight.
- 2 Keep the compost slightly moist and after 2-3 weeks plant your seedlings in the garden.

Completed



5 Create a terrarium to enjoy year round



- 1 Find an old glass jar or vase. Fill the bottom with 2.5cm of gravel. If you happen to have activated charcoal at home you can also add this to help prevent fungal growth (optional).
- 2 Add a layer of compost and place your plants, patting down the compost around the base - cacti, succulents and ferns work well!

Completed



6 Get artistic

Create a masterpiece using natural materials, or use inspiration from the outdoors.



- 1 Collect natural materials from your garden or park, or take and print off photos of interesting plants, leaves, textures and colours.
- 2 Create your masterpiece, an original piece or inspired by other artists. Hang it in your window to cheer up the neighbours.

Completed



7 Get confident with composting



1. Find a spot in your garden that is fairly constant in temperature and moisture. An earth base allows drainage and access to soil organisms, or add a layer of soil if using a bin or hard surface.
2. Aim between 25-50% green materials, eg grass clippings, and woody brown material, eg paper. Avoid letting one type of material dominate the heap.

Completed



Why your support matters

During these uncertain times, we have temporarily closed our Gardens and rescheduled our Shows. But our wider work continues with our mission to inspire everyone to grow. As a charity, we rely on your membership, donations and retail purchases to fund our work. Now more than ever we need your support.

8 Grow new friends

Create cress heads and give them a haircut.

- 1 Take the feet of a pair of old tights and add 2 teaspoons of cress seeds to each. Fill with compost and tie the end.
- 2 Turn them over so the seeds are at the top. Use rubber bands to create nose and ears, and decorate the rest of the face.
- 3 Put your cress friend on a windowsill and water well. When the seeds begin to germinate cut a cross shape in the top of the tights to let the cress grow.

 Completed 



FAMILY FRIENDLY

9 Your Wellbeing Garden

Discover the benefits of plants, gardens, and nature with a book.

- 1 Relax at home or in your garden and discover how to make your garden good for you with this book written by Alistair Griffiths, RHS Director of Science and Collections, and Matt Keightly, award-winning garden designer.

 Completed 



EASY

10 Get familiar with your flora and fauna, friends and foe

Spotting sheet for common plants and bugs, both good and bad, on your walk or in your garden, find 26 interesting plants, leaves, trees, bugs and find out what they are.

- 1 Explore your houseplants and garden, or take a walk in your local park. How many different trees, plants and wildlife you can spot? Can you get to 26?
- 2 Note down what they look like and see if you can identify them. Are they classed as weeds like dandelions? Can you spot any wildlife which is good for plants like worms, or could be harmful to plants like slugs?

 Completed 



FAMILY FRIENDLY

11 Make your flowers last a lifetime

- 1 Collect petals, flowers and leaves that have fallen to the ground in your park or garden - its best to do this on a dry day.
- 2 Spread them out on a piece of paper, cover with a second piece and place this in a flower press or between heavy books. After a week you should have beautiful pressed flowers. Can you find 26 flowers, petals or leaves to press?

 Completed 



FAMILY FRIENDLY

12 Give your wildlife a bath

Create a haven for aquatic plants and animals with a wildlife pond.

- 1 You can use any watertight container for your wildlife pond, from old washing bowls to stone troughs. Fill with water and create a shallow slope at one end of your pond to allow easy access to wildlife – pebbles work well.
- 2 Keep your pond in shade to reduce algae, and wait to see which animals take a dip in their new pool.

 Completed 



MEDIUM

13 Create a green feature wall

- 1 You can grow climbers or wall shrubs to turn a bare wall green. These can be grown directly on the wall or for DIYers you can use wire or a trellis to support the plants.
- 2 If you're feeling ambitious you can try a living wall system with grow-bag products or small panels. Ideally introduce plants as plugs to help establishment.

 Completed 



HARD

14 Take your gardening to new heights

Plant a hanging basket.

- 1 Fill a lined hanging basket with a layer of compost - you can use any free draining pot that you are able to hang up.
- 2 Add your plants, and firm around the base with extra compost. Hang up your beautiful baskets and make sure to keep the soil moist. You can even grow herbs and strawberries in them.

 Completed 



MEDIUM

15 Grow vertical veg

- 1 Consider the best position for your chosen veg, ideally in full-partial sun, and attach mesh or trellis work to your wall to support your plants.
- 2 Secure your pots using wire tied tightly around the lip, or drill holes to thread wire through. Plant your veg – try anything from salad and herbs, to aubergine and cucumber.

 Completed 



HARD

16 Decorate your plant pots

- 1 Choose your pots - terracotta, plastic, old cans, or anything with drainage holes.
- 2 Paint pots with absorbent surfaces, glue decorations to plastic pots or cans, or tie with ribbon or string. Be creative. You can even add colouring to glue to revamp broken pots and make a feature of the cracks.

 Completed 



FAMILY-FRIENDLY

To donate visit
virginmoneygiving.com/fund/rhs26

17 Chilli challenge

How many chillies can you grow?



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- 1 Remove the seeds from a chilli and dry them (or you can use shop bought chilli seeds). Fill a pot with compost, sow a few seeds on top and cover with a fine sprinkling of compost.
- 2 Cover with clear plastic, lots of supermarket packaging works well for this, and leave in a sunny window or airing cupboard until germination. See how many chillies you can grow!

Completed



22 Flavoursome flowers

Grow your own edible flowers.



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- 1 You may already have some common edible flowers in your garden, such as lavender, bergamot, nasturtium and rose. Identify the flower before you eat it - if in doubt, don't eat!
- 2 Pick young flowers and buds on dry mornings to keep the colour and flavour intense. Use on the day, refrigerate, or use frozen flowers in infusions or cakes.

Completed

18 Slow motion germination

Create a time lapse video of germinating seedlings.



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- 1 Plant your seeds and leave them on a windowsill (fast germinating seeds work best like seeds from a squash or melon), and wait for them to germinate.
- 2 Take a photo of your seedlings from the same position every hour or so (the more photos the better the effect). Flick through your photos and see your plants grow before your eyes.

Completed



23 Hold a virtual garden party

- 1 Gather 26 family, friends, and neighbours (virtually of course) and hold a party in your garden.
- 2 Give virtual tours of your garden, swap tips and home grown recipes, get inspiration from other gardens, and most importantly stay connected.

Completed



EASY

19 Spot a rainbow

1. Explore your garden, or look out for plants and flowers on your walk. Can you spot a flower or plant for every colour of the rainbow? You can even try to find out their names.

Completed



FAMILY FRIENDLY

24 Hunting nature in your home

Find 10 things in your home that are made of plants (that aren't plants!)

- 1 Look carefully around your house. Can you find 10 things that are made out of natural materials? Tip: plant materials can be found in everything from musical instruments to fabrics and soaps.

Completed



FAMILY FRIENDLY

20 Grow your kitchen scraps

- 1 Place the top of discarded veg in a saucer of water (carrot, parsnip, and beetroot work well). New green growth will appear after 2-3 days and then plant in the soil. Harvest the seeds to grow carrots next year.
- 2 You can also plant the seeds of apples, butternut squash and pumpkins, use the stones from peaches and avocados, or plant the tops of old pineapples.

Completed



FAMILY FRIENDLY

25 DIY watering can for thirsty plants

- 1 Take a used plastic milk bottle and carefully punch holes in the lid with a nail and hammer. Make a small hole in the handle of the bottle to prevent a vacuum forming.
- 2 Fill with water and use your new watering can on your plants. You can also bury it to release water slowly into the ground or a pot.

Completed



FAMILY FRIENDLY

21 DIY plant pots

Make 26 plant pots out of loo roll, newspaper, papier mache.



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- 1 Take a sheet of newspaper and fold it in half lengthways. Roll this around a tin can, fold over the paper at the bottom and press down to make the base of your pot.
- 2 You can also use loo roll or yoghurt pots with holes carefully punched in the bottom. Create decorative outer pots with papier mache. Can you make 26 DIY pots for seedlings?

Completed

26 Get poetic with your plants

- 1 Write a poem about your favourite plants, trees, garden or park. Can you make it 26 lines?

Completed



FAMILY FRIENDLY