



Photography Activity Pack

FOR CREATIVE STORYTELLING

Created with

**OPEN
EYE
GALLERY**



Socially Engaged
Photography Network



Introduction

Welcome to The Big Seed Sow photography activity pack. This pack is brought to you by RHS and Liverpool based photography organisation, Open Eye Gallery.

We've put together some top tips and easy photography tasks to help you document your local community garden and share the good work happening in your area.

This pack features seven photography tasks to take you through the Big Seed Sow week, and encourage you to document and share your activities, progress and surroundings creatively. Share your creations with us by tagging us on social media and using **#RHSBigSeedSow!**

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Some initial top tips

Task 1: Points of view

Over three billion images are shared on social media everyday, but often we see very similar content and scroll straight past. One way to document the people and places around you where your images might stand out is to **explore different viewpoints...**

The world around us can seem completely different depending on what angle we are looking at it from. Today, why not try to capture some images (up to five each) in your garden, from the following viewpoints:



Sowing seeds in biodegradable plant pots in a greenhouse

Birds eye view: Looking down, from above – what do you see?

Worms eye view: Looking up from below – what do you see? This can be a really good angle if you want to make something look bigger and more powerful!

Waist high view: Hold the camera at your waist, click and the camera will do the rest – what do you see?

Look back through all of your images – which point of view do you think produced the most interesting images?

Task 2: It is all in the detail

Today let's try out looking at our surroundings from **really close up** and from **far away**. You might find that your camera can only focus on things at a certain distance but you can use the **W** and the **T** button on most digital cameras to **zoom in** and **out**.

If using a smart phone or tablet you should see a line at the bottom of the screen with a **-** and a **+** which you can use your finger to scroll along to zoom in and out. You can also use the flash option on your camera to make things a bit sharper when taking pictures of things really close up.

Try to photograph these objects from both a really close up angle and from as far away as you can safely be. This would be a great task to focus on your current seed sowing – **let's take a closer look!**



Planting out lettuce seedling using a dibber

Task 3: Finding a rainbow

Whatever the season, whatever the weather – we can find all sorts of colours and tones in nature.

Can you photograph every colour of the rainbow in your garden? Remember you might need to zoom in or zoom out to get the best shot of your colour.

Can you note down or tell us **what each object is and why you chose it?**



Tomato seedlings in a tray



Bluebell Nurseries & Arboretum



An ornamental cabbage

Task 4: A day in the life

A garden can only grow if we support it to flourish. We'd love to find out more not just about the garden but about you!

Can you take a photograph **on the hour every hour** from 10am - 6pm of what you are up to? **What does a day in the life of a community gardener look like?**



Gardeners at Donaghmore Horticultural Community



Sowing seed in a greenhouse



Sowing seed in a greenhouse

Task 5: Who makes up your community?

This can be a busy season for gardeners to connect with each other through seed swapping, sharing and hands on seed sowing. Over this time we often come together and if we documented this we'd really find out more about who makes up the growing community!

Can you photograph the people who make up your group? Why not try the 'action shot' approach:

TOP TIPS FOR TAKING ACTION SHOTS

- Pre-focus your shots. When you're working with a moving subject, it's important to anticipate where the action is likely to take place
- Experiment with low angles to make the ordinary look extraordinary
- Shoot in bursts...lots of pictures of the same shot give the best chance to capture that quick action shot



Pupils harvest carrots during their gardening lesson



Members of Stony Stratford in Bloom work in their community garden

Task 6: Reflections

You can have some fun with reflections when using photography. When looking through your camera you can focus on the reflection to create a self-portrait and highlight your domestic surroundings, or even open the windows at an angle to see a different view. Try these below:

Look through your camera and **focus on your reflection in the window or a piece of glass** (this could be from a shed window or greenhouse) to create a self portrait.

Keep checking back to your window/piece of glass throughout the day. As the light changes it will create reflections on surfaces you could photograph too.

Water reflections: You can make use of water found in water butts, puddles, ponds etc – can you find the water around your garden to capture the reflections?

Glasshouse lake and borders at RHS Garden Wisley



Greenhouse vents

Task 7: Nature collage

- Go into the garden or **take a short walk** round your nearest green space
- Look for interesting **shapes and colours** and pick up some leaves, twigs, flowers or specific natural materials relevant to your growing space to bring home
- When home, take a piece of card and **lay out your objects** onto the page and **create a collage**
- **Take a picture** of your nature collage



Nature collage by mum and two-year-old

Photography consent

If you are taking photographs of other people, it's important they are **aware**, and you have their **consent**.

Sharing photos is a great way to keep us updated and promote your activities. If you'd like to share photos with us, there are some steps to take first:

- When taking photos or filming it is you/your group's responsibility to **display notices** on the day
- Where possible, **tell people ahead of time** that photography is taking place, so that they are aware of how they can opt out
- Photos of vulnerable individuals/groups and children **must** be accompanied by a 'model release' or consent form signed by their legal carer or parent/guardian
- If these steps have been taken then consent forms aren't needed for all adults (**unless they are the main focus of the image, easily recognisable or anyone who is named or quoted**)

For more guidance, and template forms and notices, see our **[Community Events Toolkit](#)**



Michelle Jones (R), RHS School Garden Champion of the Year 2019 and other mums of the school's gardening club

Share your photography creations with us by tagging us on social media and using [#RHSBigSeedSow](https://www.instagram.com/RHSBigSeedSow)

 @rhsgrassroots

 @rhsschoolgardening

@rhscommunitygardening

 @RHSSchools @RHSBloom

