



SUMMER TO GROW

WEEK FOUR - POLLINATORS

Welcome back to Summer To Grow,

Can you believe we are half way through already!? By now you should have some well established seedlings that can be transferred to your patch, so I'll talk you through transplanting.

Also this week, we will be focusing on pollinators and the benefit they bring to our patch. Bees and other pollinators are under threat due to pesticides so I encourage you to choose natural control methods to protect our wildlife.

Emma x



PLANTING

This week you should have some young plants that will be ready to be transplanted out into your main patch, or a larger pot if you're using your windowsill. Try not to touch the stems as you could weaken them.

If you've sown seeds indoors, you'll need to harden them off first. Introduce them to the great outdoors during the daytime over the course of a week and then they'll be able to cope with the drop in temperature overnight.

JOBS ON THE PATCH

Your fertiliser from week one should be ready now! If you haven't already, you can add a cupful to your watering can and feed your plants.

Also this week, make sure you keep the watering up. Go every day! It's hot out there!

And keep removing those weeds. Once your plants are big enough, you'll need to do it less as the veg will overshadow them.





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TIP

As your veg begins to establish, you'll see some flowers begin to emerge. For many veg varieties, this is where the veg or fruit will grow, so you'll be relying on pollinators to help the process along.

Encourage pollinators to your patch by planting some wildflowers or leaving a few weeds to grow, avoiding pesticides, leave a bucket or water nearby to attract hoverflies, or build a bug or bee hotel (instructions below!).



SUNDAY IN THE SOIL ACTIVITY: BUILD A BEE HOTEL

Pollinators are so important to our planet. If we had none, we would have no food. Literally NONE. Help to take care of them by building your very own bee hotel. It's easy!

You'll need:

- An old, clean tin can, carton or plastic bottle
- Some garden canes, straws or rolled up paper (note that it might get wet!)
- A pair of secateurs (adults only)
- Some ribbon or string

How to:

1. Cut down your garden canes to the height of your can so you have lots of shorter sticks.
2. Pop all the sticks into the can and pack them as tightly as possible so they don't fall out. Fill the gaps with moss if you want.
3. Tie some string around the can at both ends and make a loop to hang it with.
4. Decorate it and then hang your bee hotel near your patch!

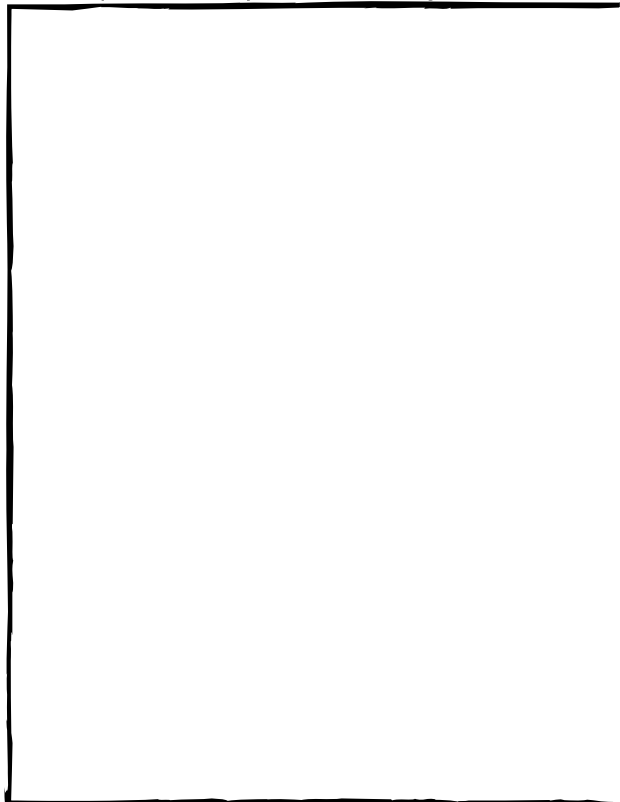


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Date: _____

Which plants are you hardening off?



Jobs on the patch

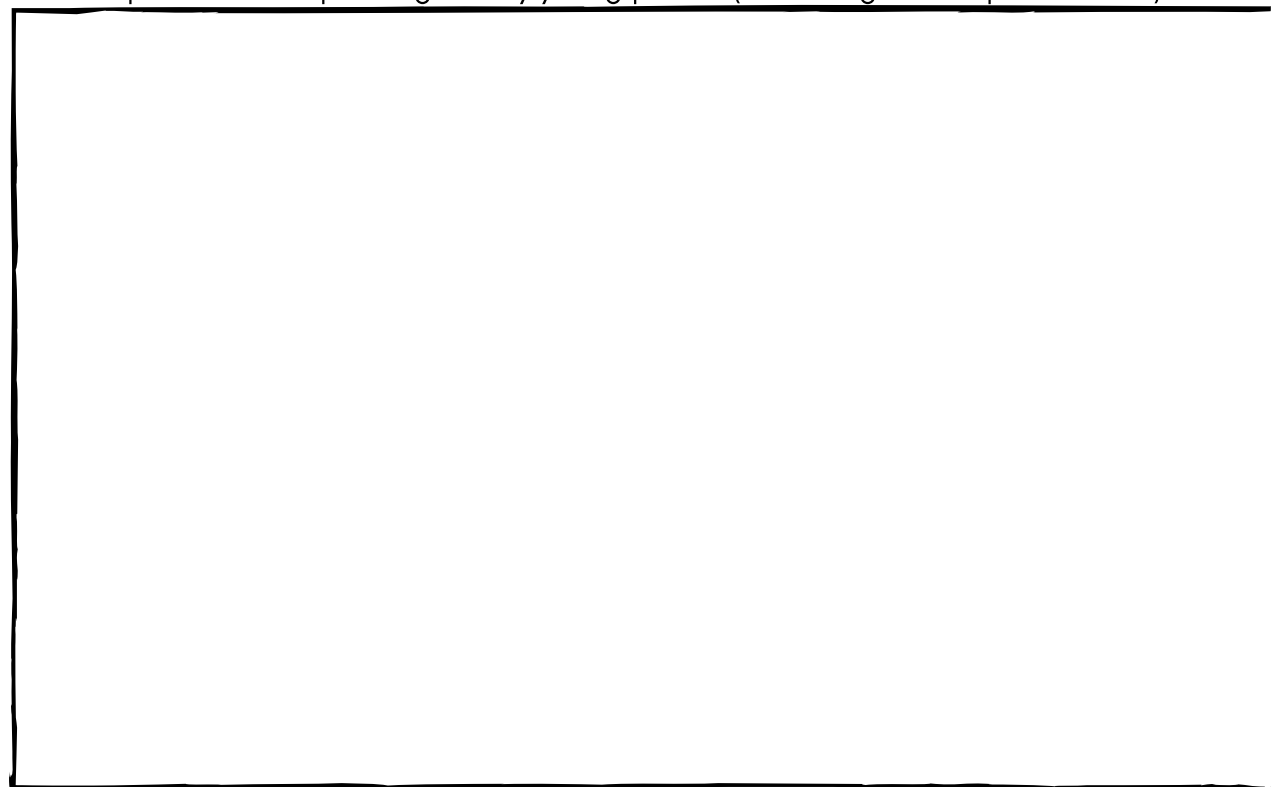
Caring for your patch

- ☐ Water daily
- ☐ Dig out weeds
- ☐ Protect from pests

Other jobs

- ☐ Harden off young plants
- ☐ Plant out young plants
- ☐ Sow wildflower seeds
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

Here's a picture of me planting out my young plants. (Draw or glue in a picture here)

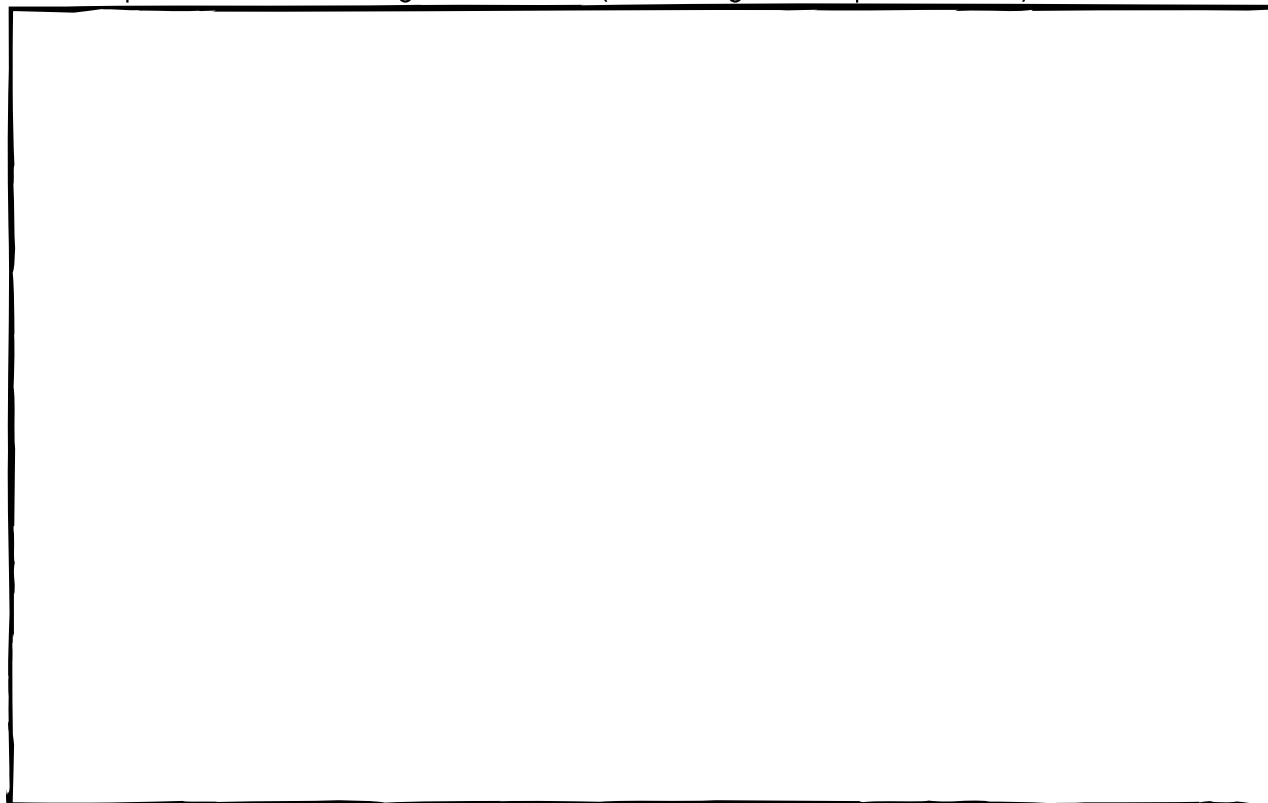


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Date: _____

Here's a picture of me making a bee hotel! (Draw or glue in a picture here)



Picture of my patch (take a photo or draw it here)

