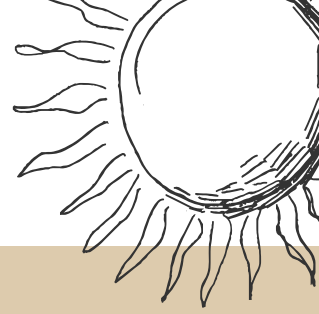


Outdoor Wild Garden



The Wild Garden

For this activity you're going to adopt a plot of soil as your own wild garden. A single square foot or even less will do. You only need to mark it so you know where it is, give it some love and curiosity, and watch the magic of life do its work!

Who will you find living and growing in your very own wild garden?

Picking a spot & Things to notice

While picking a spot for your wild garden plot the first thing to notice is how close to home you are. Make sure to stay close. Things are changing quickly this time of year, so make sure it's easy to visit every day.

Pick an untended spot or a previously gardened spot that you're going to leave alone and where you aren't sure what will grow there! Be careful not to pick a spot that people mow or are likely to trample.

Now, use all five of your senses to determine:

- Is my spot sunny, or shady?
- As the sun moves throughout the day, when will it hit my wild garden?
- Is this a wet garden or a dry garden?
- If it rains, will my garden get water?
- Is this a spot where people mow or walk over and trample?
- Are there plants starting to grow here already?

THINGS YOU'LL NEED:

- Landmarks items: Stones, sticks, or a natural craft.
- Decorations: String, crystals, figurines, etc.

Landmarking/Decoration

Landmarks can be placed around your garden in a square or other shape, or a single landmark can be placed in the middle of your garden.

Maybe you want to make a little fence with sticks and string to make your garden more clearly defined as a special spot.

Feel free to decorate with a special rock or two, a crystal, a lego-gardener... whatever inspires you. This part is totally up to you - but make sure it's something that you'll recognize and won't get meddled with by people or animals.



* Since you're not planting, start predicting!

Build your motivation to check on your garden by first making some bets with yourself or guesses with your family.

- How many different kinds of plants will grow in your spot?
- How many different kinds of bugs might you find there this week/month/season?
- How many plants in total will live here?
- How tall will the tallest plant be?
- Will any of them be medicines?

Now is the hard part: the anticipation! Keep coming back to see how things change and who or what is showing up. When your plants flower, do your best to identify them!

Perhaps you'll want to catch the evolution of one of your plants in a series of drawings over time.

