

GARDEN WITH YOUR KIDS!

Fun Ornamental Edibles (Look for unique colors or shapes & fragranced plants.)

Beans, radishes and sunflowers are all very easy to grow, so are perfect for kids to start with. Also try Scarlet Runner Bean, Okra Billy Bob Red, Tomato Mr. Stripey, Tomato Sweet Million, Tomato Cherokee Purple, Lettuce Red Sails, Mustard Red Giant, Swisschard Bright Lights, Summer Squash Pattypan, Winter Squash Acorn, Pumpkin Howden, Beets – Gold or Striped, Blueberry Pink Lemonade, Strawberry Toscana & Gazana, Eggplant Little Fingers & Fairy Tale, Peppermint, Catnip, Lemongrass, Pineapple Sage, Basil African Blue, etc...

Edible flowers are also great fun for kids – just make sure to exercise caution (check out the link on the TIPS page of the website).

NOTE: Remember to be extra careful with chemicals in your gardens if your kids will be involved. We recommend using beneficial companion planting (see our TIPS page of the website to download a handout on edible gardening) combined with natural pesticides. *Even if you use eco-friendly treatments, they can still cause problems if ingested!* All pest treatment products recommend waiting a day or more after application to harvest produce, and you should always wash your edibles to be safe.

Plant a Zoo Garden! (A garden full of plants with animal names.)

Bat-Face Cuphea, Cat's Whiskers, Spider Plant, Snake Plant, Foxtail Fern, Cockscomb, Elephant Ear, Snapdragon, Lambs Ear, Turtlehead, Dinosaur Kale, Cardinal Flower & many more!

Design and Plant a Fairy Garden!

We have a variety of plants and containers for fairy garden (miniature garden) creation, and typically offer an annual workshop as well. Consider using Brass Buttons, Peacock Fern, Dwarf Mondo Grass, Golden Sweetflag, Golden Moneywort, Wirevine, Thyme, Fittonia, Polkadot Plant, Mexican Heather or small succulents. Incorporate pebbles, branches, or moss, and try creating miniature ponds and arbors with materials your kids can discover in their own back yard. Remember to trim and maintain your fairy garden just as you would a life-size landscape to keep it tidy for the fairies! If your kids enjoy playing with dolls or toy animals, they may have fun using flowers or plant parts for dress up. Hibiscus and Daylily blooms make great dresses, but make sure they avoid toxic blooms such as Angel Trumpet or Datura.

Succulents (specifically cacti) and **carnivorous plants** are always popular among kids (we offer a variety at the greenhouse). Caring for a plant can help teach kids responsibility and give them a sense of purpose and pride. If your child does well with their initial plant(s), a great reward is to create a container garden with them using more of their favorite plant varieties. You can easily create a succulent or cacti miniature garden (these are always popular as they require lots of sun and little care), or you can embark on a terrarium or fairy garden. (We recommend starting with something easier, such as a cacti, rather than a more challenging plant like the Venus Flytrap so your kids aren't discouraged.)