

Did You Know?

Plastic bottle and cans account for about **one in five** pieces of litter in Victoria?

The PET plastic that most plastic bottles are made of is actually a fairly useful material – it's resilient, it's flexible, it's transparent and it's food safe. These qualities mean that there are **countless ways** that we can use these bottles to give them a **second life**.

Bring Litter to Life

As part of the 2017 Arts Learning Festival, we're asking you to help us create a beautiful vertical garden out of plastic bottles. People use these bottles every day, and many of them go straight into the trash or into our rivers and oceans. By collecting PET Bottles around your school and community, you can help us create a beautiful green wall, full of the herbs, flowers and plants that you love.

TURNING THIS



INTO THIS



Step 1: Start collecting today!

You can find the right kind of bottle using the Plastic Identification Symbols below. Look for a triangle with a **number 1** inside stamped on a plastic container or bottle.



PET



HDPE



V



LDPE



PP



PS



OTHER

Step 2: Bring a Bit of Green

To bring our vertical garden to life, we're asking you to bring your own little piece of greenery to add to the garden. There are lots of wonderful plants that grow in our homes, gardens, and neighbourhoods that you can use to create a whole new plant.

Plant cuttings

Taking cuttings is a fantastic way to make new plants from the ones that are already in your garden. It's called 'propagating' and it means to grow a plant from the stem of another plant. It's inexpensive and it's fun!

It's best to take cuttings when the plant isn't flowering and when there is nice new growth. Plants that are sick or stressed will probably not produce very good cuttings.

How to take a cutting



1. Cut stems from plant.



2. Cut stem below a node.



3. Strip away bottom leaves.



4. Use a pencil to make a hole.



5. Push soil around stem OR Place the cutting in water.



What plants can I take a cutting from?

To help you find your plant, we've made a list of great herbs and flowers that grow from cuttings.



1. **Thyme or mint** – You can grow thyme and mint from tip cuttings taken in summer and inserted into some moist potting medium.



2. **Spider plant:** Cut the plantlet from the stolon with a pair of scissors, fill a small jar or cup with water, place the plantlet in indirect sunlight until roots form then fill a 4 inch pot with well-draining potting soil.



3. **Geranium:** 6-8 inch long cuttings can be rooted, but it helps if the parent plant is allowed to wilt slightly before taking the cuttings. Withdraw water for a week and then take the cuttings 12 hours after watering the plant. The rehydrated stems take root more easily. *Geraniums come in rose-scented, peppermint scented and lemon scented varieties and are both common and hardy.*



4. **Succulents:** Succulents come in all shapes and sizes and are one of the easiest plants to grow cuttings from. Simply take a cutting of a succulent stem, place it in water or soil and wait for the roots to form.



5. **Basil** – These are easily grown from seeds, but you can also take tip cuttings at any time of the year. Keep in a warm, protected place out of direct sun.



6. **Sage**: Take a 4 inch basal cutting in autumn and pot up. Keep the soil warm and moist throughout winter and then transplant in spring.



7. **Rosemary**: Take 3-5 inch long tip cuttings in spring from new growth, or use a basal cutting in autumn. If you don't want a lot of rosemary plants, root a few cuttings directly in individual pots covered with a plastic dome.



8. **Lavender**: Take 3 inch heel cuttings in summer and autumn and transplant them once roots have formed after 4-6 weeks.



9. **Rex Begonia**: All you need to grow these big-leaved beauties is a single leaf. Make a few slashes on the prominent veins on the underside of the leaf and lay it on a moist bed of peat moss and sharp sand in equal proportions. Weight the leaf down with a few pebbles so that the cut edges remain in contact with the bed. Keep in warm area.

There are many more plants that you can grow from cuttings. Talk to a teacher, your parents, or local gardener to see what you can bring from your local area.

What to bring on the day

We'll be at the festival in Birrarung Marr in May, 2017 with scissors and soil and our vertical garden frame, ready for planting. All you need to bring is your plastic PET bottle and a cutting or seedling. Just look for our green roofed Sustainability Rover.

We can't wait to see you there!

