

School Orchards



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Why orchards?

- What is an orchard?
- Reconnecting with the natural and wider world
- Promoting healthy eating
- Learning to cook healthy and traditional recipes
- Useful for lessons right across the curriculum
- Engaging with local people and local traditions
- Enhancing your school grounds
- Low maintenance
- Lasting legacy



Planning your orchard

- Where to plant?
 - How much space?
 - Good drainage
 - Reasonable soils
 - Air drainage
 - Sunshine
 - Shelter
 - What other features do you want?



What space have you got?

- Where are we now?
- Where would we like to be?
- How can we get there?
- Making the changes
- Where are we now?
- Let's go outside....

Choosing species and varieties

- Apples
- Pears
- Plumbs
- Bush fruit
 - Blackcurrants
 - Gooseberries
- Nuts
 - Hazel
 - Walnut
- Exotics
 - Peaches
 - Passion fruit



Choosing varieties



Apples In Our Orchard!!!

James Grieve's nursery has been growing trees for 100 years and now produces over half a million fruit and ornamental trees every year.



James Grieve Apple



Oslin Apple

Oslin apples are from Arbroath, also know as Arbroath Pippin.



Gallopway Pippin Apple

Large and juicy
crisp and sweet
with a hint of tartness
perfect for eating
or cooking.



Bloody Ploughman Apple

The name comes from the
apple being from a ploughman
and a ploughman was a
farmer who worked the
land and raised a
crop of apples. The
apple was used for
cooking and eating.



Large apple, cooks to
a well flavoured
richy purée

An Apple a
day keeps the
doctor away!



Scotch Dumpling
(Cooking) Apple

Pollination groups



The importance of root stock



What will your orchard look like?

- How big will the trees grow?
- Who will look after them?
- Who will use the orchard area?
- What will they use it for?
 - Lessons
 - Relaxing
 - Socialising
 - Cooking and eating
 - Events
 - Displaying art

Meadow orchard



Other features in your orchard



Step over



Espalier



Cordons











Bush trees





Growing in planters



Hazel bushes



Planting

- Bare root - November to March
- Container grown - any time of year but needs extra care
- Plant so that the graft joint is above the level of the soil
- Back fill and firm up - water well on planting
- Protecting your trees
- Weeding and watering









Aftercare

- Celebrate its opening! and first harvest.
- See if there are local people who can help
- Pruning - annually or biannually, depending on format of trees
- Pests and diseases - most can be dealt with organically
- Remove fruitlets in years one and two to support stronger growth
- Thin overcrowded clusters of fruit - leaving one or two per cluster
- Check tree ties around supporting stakes
- Allocate responsibility for maintenance and add to school calendar

Other activities



- Grafting traditional varieties and selling or donating them
- Tasting and cooking
- Celebrating Apple Day
(www.commonground.org.uk)
- Juicing
- Creating art

Curriculum links

- Poetry, song and stories
- Instructions
- Painting and sculpture
- Textiles and murals
- Longest length of peel
- Estimating and measuring
- Selling your produce
- Designing seating
- Cooking
- Pollination
- Investigating browning of cut apples
- Investigating wildlife in your orchard
- Research apples in your local shops

Experimentation



Mapping



Travelling fruit

Cooking



Art



Kate



Aidan Purcell

Further help and advice



School orchards

Low-cost and easy to grow – how fruit trees can enrich learning, encourage wildlife and enhance your grounds



- www.ltl.org.uk go to resources and training - search for orchard
- www.fruitfullcommunities.org - for advice on creating your orchard
- www.commonground.org.uk - apple day
- www.orangepeppin.com - traditional apple names
- www.orchardnetwork.org.uk - to find your local community orchard
- www.theorchardproject.org.uk - national charity creating and caring for orchards