



A47 Making a scarecrow



Making scarecrows is great fun. Do it at home, in school and at community events. Anyone can have a go at making these human-shaped deterrents intended to scare off birds before they can damage your crops. This activity gets you started with suggested materials and examples of scarecrows already made at schools.

Resources

- Materials to reuse for making scarecrows. See top tip box
- Tools such as scissors, secateurs, etc

Activity

- 1 Look around your garden for materials and invite pupils and parents to donate items for reuse.
- 2 Get creative putting together scarecrows, perhaps hosting a competition and showing off the entries at garden events.
- 3 Position scarecrows near vulnerable plants to deter birds, such as pigeons. Reposition every few weeks so birds don't get used to scarecrows and resume attacking plants.

Top tip



Useful materials

Supports: broom handles, fence posts, branches, etc.

Stuffing: straw, twigs, plastic bags, shredded paper, etc.

Body: jumpers, trousers, shirts, tights, hessian sacks, bags, plastic bottles, plant pots, etc.

Fixing materials: string, raffia, thin wire, cable ties etc.

Noisy/glittery things for added deterrence: tin cans, foil bottle top, etc.



Using plant pots for scarecrow's face in the allotment garden at Garden Organic, Ryton.



Pupils at Galleywood Infant School proudly displaying their scarecrows before putting them to work.



A moody looking scarecrow protecting vegetables at The Lancaster School.

Health & Safety

Be careful handling and securing materials, looking out for sharp/rough edges.

See also *Health and Safety Guidelines (Section SG1.2)*

Further information

S4.11 Reusing materials