

Planning with pupils what to grow in your polytunnel

Introduction

Use this activity with pupils and others involved in helping to plan what to grow in your polytunnel.

Resources

1. Food Growing Instruction Cards
www.gardenorganic.org.uk/growyourown/growing_cards.php
2. Labels for 'Best Inside', 'Either', 'Best Outside'
3. A selection of exotic crops



Activity

1. Choose a selection of photos of fruit and vegetables, see table below for suitable ones to include and mix the photos up.
2. Ask pupils to sort them out into crops that should be grown in a polytunnel, crops that are better to be grown outside and crops that could be either.

Top tip

Taste test

Cut up some of your exotic fruit samples and have a taste test at the end of your session.

Make the activity simpler by not including crops from the middle column.

3. Which crops do people enjoy eating what would you like to grow in your polytunnel?

Best Inside	Either	Best Outside
Tomatoes	Early potatoes	Cabbage
Aubergines	Purple sprouting broccoli	Cauliflower
Cucumbers	Radish	Brussels sprouts
Peppers	Courgettes early crop	Kale
Chillies	Summer squash	Kohl Rabi
Oriental salads	Strawberries	Swede
Melons	Leaf beet	Turnip
Autumn and winter salad		Garlic
Basil		Main crop onions
Okra		Calabrese
Sweet potato		Runner beans

Extended activities

Bring in a selection of more exotic crops – sweet potatoes, pineapples, bananas, okra, aubergines, grapes, kiwi fruit, etc. Plot where they came from on a world map and talk about the climatic conditions they need to grow. Are there any that you think you could experiment with in your polytunnel?