



18<sup>th</sup> May 2026

## **National Children's Gardening Week: How to get kids growing this half term with British Garden Centres**

**With half term just around the corner, British Garden Centres is calling on families to swap screens for soil and get growing this National Children's Gardening Week (23<sup>rd</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> May)**

As one of the UK's leading garden retailers, British Garden Centres knows better than most that getting children into the garden early makes a real difference. Gardening builds patience, sparks curiosity, and gives children a sense of pride that's hard to match. Whether you've got a big back garden or a kitchen windowsill, there's something every family can do during the week to mark the occasion, and we've got some great activities to try.

**Build an insect hotel:** Discover the big world of small creatures this week by building a habitat for your garden's most helpful insects. With just a few handfuls of straw, bark, and bamboo, you and your little ones can construct a thriving home for lacewings, beetles, bugs and bees. It's a wonderful way for families to connect with nature, offering a hands-on lesson in biodiversity that transforms a simple afternoon project into a lifelong love for the environment.

**Grow your own food:** You don't need a green thumb or months of patience to start a family veg patch. Speedy crops like cress, lettuce, and radishes offer almost instant rewards, making them perfect for curious kids. By inviting children to grow the ingredients for their own meals, parents can bridge the gap between the garden and the dinner table, as kids are more likely to try something they've nurtured themselves from a tiny seed.

**Make a seed bomb:** Transform your garden with a simple seed bomb. All you need is clay, compost, and wildflower seed. It's a messy, hands-on craft that ends with a literal bang. Parents and kids can throw their creations into any bare ground and watch as they sprout into colourful havens for bees and butterflies.

**Pot painting:** Let children channel their inner Picasso and paint their own terracotta pot before filling it with herbs, strawberries, or whatever takes their fancy. It gives them something to care for that's entirely theirs.

**Plant a sensory garden:** Transform a small corner of your plot into a sensory wonderland this week. By choosing plants like fragrant lavender, fuzzy lamb's ear, and edible mint, you can create an interactive outdoor space that



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sparks imagination. It's a wonderful way to show children that a garden is more than just plants; it's a living, breathing experience that engages the ears, the nose, and the taste buds.

**Make your own wormery or compost heap:** All you need is a simple bin, a few hungry worms and some kitchen scraps to turn into high-quality compost. It's a fascinating, slightly squirmy way to teach kids about the circle of life and show them exactly how nature recycles itself. Who knew kitchen waste could be so interesting?

**British Garden Centres' Make it Bloom Mini trail:** Some of our centres are doing something a little bit special for National Children's Gardening Week. As part of its popular 'Make it Bloom' spring campaign, three familiar faces will be making an appearance: Georgie the Bee, Charlie the Bird, and Bernard the Butterfly. The characters will be starring in a free children's activity trail running across select British Garden Centres locations from 23rd to 31st May (please check your local centre for details).

Little ones can follow the trail through the centre, spot the characters, discover new things about plants and nature, and make a few memories along the way. There's nothing to book, and the trail is free to do; just turn up and explore. Remember to take a photo with one of the experts and post it to social media using #MakeItBloomMini for the chance to win a gardening starter bundle.

**British Garden Centres' Make it Bloom Mini Sunflower growing competition:** This activity can involve the whole family this half term and can be carried out in any back garden, no matter the size. Plant a seed, watch it shoot skyward, and see whose grows tallest by autumn. Simple, satisfying, and almost impossible to fail, and it will give your children a sense of accomplishment, too. Simply take a photo of your sunflower and its height and tag us on social media, using the hashtag #makeitbloommini.

**Lucy Hewitt, Marketing Campaigns Manager at British Garden Centres,** said: "We are thrilled to welcome families into our centres for National Children's Gardening Week to celebrate the joy of the outdoors. You don't need a massive outdoor space to get involved; whether it's painting a single pot or building a bug hotel, these activities prove that even the smallest hands can make a big difference at home. We've designed our 'Make it Bloom' trail in store to be a fun, free way for kids to burn off some energy and discover that nature is the best playground there is."



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Visit <https://www.britishgardencentres.com/make-it-bloom/> for more information and more inspiring gardening tips.

**ENDS**

**WORD COUNT: 820**

**Notes to Editors:**

About the business:

British Garden Centres (BGC) is the UK's largest family-owned garden centre group with 80 centres around the country. The group is owned and led by the Stubbs family, who also own and operate Woodthorpe Leisure Park in Lincolnshire.

BGC was launched in 1990 with the opening of Woodthorpe Garden Centre by brothers Charles and Robert Stubbs. Since 2018, it has expanded rapidly through the acquisition of garden centres, allowing it to grow from its heartland into the business it is now, with 80 garden centres spread from Carmarthen to Ramsgate and from Wimborne to East Durham.

The group has a team of over 3,500 colleagues working across the garden centres, restaurants, 2 growing nurseries, 4 distribution centres, Woodthorpe Leisure Park, and Woody's Restaurant & Bar.

**Social Media**

Facebook: British Garden Centres

Twitter: @BGCentres

Instagram: @BritishGardenCentres

Website: [www.britishgardencentres.com](http://www.britishgardencentres.com)

**Contact**

Cassie King - PR Officer

[cking@britishgardencentres.com](mailto:cking@britishgardencentres.com)