

DRAWING AND NAMING FLOWERS



What do we need to start?

- Pen or pencil
- Eraser
- Colouring pencils, crayons or paints and a brush
- Some plant reference books to identify plants

It is never easy to remember the proper (botanical) names of flowers, vegetables, shrubs or trees, but a way that will help you remember a plant name is to choose one that you like and try to remember its name. You may be attracted to a plant by its colour or shape. It may produce tasty fruit or be a vegetable, or it may be a plant that keeps appearing as a weed in the garden and is a nuisance. Some plants have a peculiar name or other funny characteristics, and this is how you can start to remember them.

1. Select a plant that you like and draw it. If you can, colour your drawing and label some of the plant's parts, like the flowers or buds, leaves and roots etc. This will help you to remember its name. Also write down the function of the various parts you label such as the roots (to anchor and hold the plant in the ground). The flower is the part that will attract insects and produce seed to grow new plants, so colour and shape is important.

2. If you do not know the name of the plant that you have drawn, take a look at some books on plants, search on the internet or ask someone to help you. Many garden centres, gardening shops, parks and gardens have labels attached to plants so you can easily identify them.

3. By looking at plants and observing them you will get to know their characteristics and how they grow. When you walk around the garden, notice which plants are growing well and which do not look as healthy and look for a reason. It may be that they are in a shady place and don't get enough sunlight or there could be competition from other plants. It's like being a detective trying to solve a problem.

4. You can have some fun in the garden by seeing how plants grow using some simple experiments on them. To prove that plants need light to grow (photosynthesis), place a

number of bricks or other objects onto the lawn and leave them there for 2 to 3 weeks. When you lift the bricks the grass that was covered will be yellow and shorter because it had no light. The surrounding green grass that had light and continued to grow will be longer. A similar thing can be done with a leaf covered with tinfoil. The covered part turns yellow through lack of light. Patterns can be made on grass by using piles of sand, 10cm high, formed into letters to spell a name. After 15 to 20 days when the sand is removed, the area that it covered will be yellow and you can see the lettering. If sand or other objects are left on a lawn for very long periods they may permanently damage the grass because it cannot receive light and consequently dies. Remember to always ask permission before you try these little experiments on the lawn.