

Royal Horticultural Society

News and resources available from the RHS.

Rocket Science

Turning half a million pupils into space biologists

The RHS Campaign for School Gardening has partnered with the UK Space Agency to embark on an 'out of this world' educational project.



Two kilograms of rocket seeds will shortly take off from Florida bound for the International Space Station as part of British ESA astronaut Tim Peake's six-month Principia mission.

After several months on board, the seeds will return to the UK in the spring of 2016. They will be packaged up with identical seeds that have stayed on earth. Participating schools will each receive two packets of 100 seeds to grow and compare, and curriculum linked teaching resources and posters, tailored according to the age of your pupils.

Schools, community groups and educational groups of all ages and abilities will have the chance to apply for a Rocket Science resource pack and take part in our nationwide science experiment from September 2015.

Be the first to hear more about the project, including when applications open for resource packs, by registering your interest.

schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/Competitions/Rocket-science-registration-form

UPDATE: Houston we have a problem...but we can fix it!

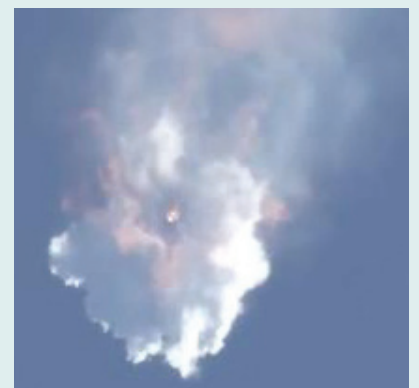
You might have heard about a rocket supplying the space station exploded a couple of weeks ago. This had our seeds on which are now a bit roasted and scattered over the pacific ocean!

I am delighted to say that the project is still going ahead and we are working with the UK Space Agency to get more seeds on an upcoming flight. We are hoping we can get them on the next Soyuz flight from Russia which leaves next month.

The rest of the project is unaffected, we will still be bringing the seeds back from space at the same time and distributing the seeds to schools at the same time. We will also still be opening official registrations in September and as before, schools can register their interest now on our website. By registering your interest now, you will have a week to apply for the seeds in September before applications open to everyone.

The latest news re the explosion can be found here:

<https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/News/News-results/National/2015/July/Rocket-Science-Rocket-Failure>



The RHS Campaign for School Gardening has been revamped with a new logo and a hugely improved website, rhs.org.uk/schoolgardening.



The **RHS Campaign for School Gardening** is here to help your garden flourish!

Make a difference by registering **free** to receive a starter pack worth over £20 and gain access to hundreds of free downloadable resources including lesson plans and curriculum-linked activities.

Earn fantastic rewards with our School Gardening Awards Scheme, take part in our great competitions and get the most out of your garden

through our extensive programme of UK-wide School Gardening Training Courses.

RHS Training Courses



Our School Gardening Training Courses are offered as full or half day courses at inspiring venues throughout the UK. We have developed a new and exciting programme for 2015-16 with courses suitable for anyone involved in teaching and inspiring children and young people to garden.

To find and book school gardening training courses in your area or anywhere in the UK, please go to:

<https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/Training-courses-and-events>

Training courses at RHS Garden Rosemoor:

Focus on Edibles This series of three half day courses will give teachers of all age groups the skills to grow and manage a simple productive garden throughout the year.

Autumn	06 Oct, 2015	10.00am-12.30pm	£45.00
Spring	15 Mar, 2016	10.00am-12.30pm	£45.00
Summer	26 Apr, 2016	10.00am-12.30pm	£45.00

School Workshops

We are now taking bookings for the Autumn term so if you want to guarantee a place please book NOW!

Our booklet of workshops is available as a download from our website:

www.rhs.org.uk/education-learning/gardening-children-schools/school-visits/school-visits-rosemoor,-devon

We are continuing our successful Maths and puzzles workshop 'Alice in Numberland' which is not in the booklet please ask for details Tel: 01805 626819.

Remember Educational visits are FREE and we still have a few Travel Grants of £100 available for schools to help with coach hire.



Teacher Information - September 2015

Here is a selection of organisations and events that might be of interest.

Events and other websites of interest

Countryside Classroom



This month sees the launch of the much-anticipated Countryside Classroom website, a must-go destination for teachers who want to find up-to-date resources to use in the classroom, places to visit with their class or people to ask for expert support. www.countrysideclassroom.org.uk/



26 October - 1 November 2015

Wild About Gardens Week, the annual celebration of garden wildlife hosted by the *Royal Horticultural Society* and *The Wildlife Trusts*, is teaming up with *Hedgehog Street* this year to highlight how gardeners can help our hedgehogs. This much-loved creature is declining in Britain as fast as the tiger is elsewhere. This year's Wild About Gardens Week will form a week-long call to action and a celebration of the humble hedgehog, packed with events, competitions and opportunities to get stuck in. Visit: www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk/

Free sustainable greenhouses for schools



Biodome Systems have launched an exciting new opportunity for schools to apply for a 100% fully funded, state of the art, biodome that will easily accommodate class of 32. To find out more information on how to apply for a grant visit the Biodome Systems website: <http://biodomesystems.com/>



A project that teaches primary aged children about potatoes. With almost 1 million primary school children benefitting from this classroom experience that is linked to the UK curricular children learn how potatoes grow and how they fit in to a healthy balanced diet. All you have to do is register your school to receive a FREE potato growing kit, use the supporting lesson plans and worksheets and for a chance to win fabulous prizes for your school, enter the competition once you have harvested. Visit: <http://gyop.potato.org.uk/>



Farming and Countryside Education

FACE is a registered education charity. We help children and young people from all parts of England and Wales to learn about food, farming and the countryside, through hands-on learning activities, educational projects and visits to the countryside. They have a comprehensive website full of resources and news. Visit:

<http://www.face-online.org.uk/>

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The **Natural Connections Demonstration Project** is an exciting initiative funded by Natural England, DEFRA and English Heritage, which Plymouth University were awarded the contract to deliver. It is one of the largest outdoor learning projects in the UK and will involve around 200 schools and between 200-500 volunteers. This innovative project operates at a local, school-led level, in 'hubs' across the South West. Natural Connections runs until March 2016.

To find out more about the project visit

<http://www.lotc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Natural-Connections-March-2015.pdf>



The **Growing Devon Schools Partnership (GDSP)** was formed in the summer of 2012 following publication of the Growing in Schools Taskforce report. The partnership brings together land-based providers from across the county to support and engage schools in the establishment of food growing and outdoor learning projects. Our work supports wider health, education and food related initiatives locally, regionally and nationally. Visit: www.growingdevonschools.org/



The **Great Plant Hunt** develops children's understanding of the natural world and is an ideal free resource to help you teach the primary science curriculum.

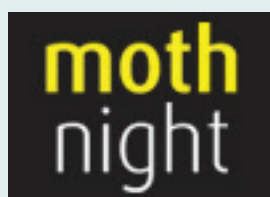
Set up by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew to celebrate 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth. The Great Plant Hunt follows in the footsteps of Darwin by going on nature walks. They'll find out more about plants and in the process learn key scientific skills. Lots of free downloadable resources for all age groups, for teachers to use.

Visit: www.greatplanthunt.org/home

Wildlife Survey

Opportunities to allow schools to take part in surveys & contribute to scientific data collection

National Moth Night 10th-12th September 2015



You can take part in Moth Night in any way you choose. This might involve running a moth-trap in your garden or in the countryside, looking for moths at your kitchen window or attending a public event.

Moth Night is a great opportunity to raise awareness about moths, so why not get family and friends involved in whatever you do?

Visit: www.mothnight.info/www/