

# Plant Life



fairyLAND  
TRUST

## Building your own Fairy Garden

The Fairyland Trust in the UK encourages children, families and others to appreciate the magic of nature. They use myths, legends, folklore and magical traditions to explore and discover wildlife and natural places.

To do this the Trust runs events such as Fairy Fairs and Workshops which provide a safe and enjoyable experience or day out for children and families. It also researches and gathers information about folk heritage, and the way it binds us to nature. It uses this information to create new and fun experiences for people of all ages.

The Trust helps children and families create Fairy Gardens of real wild flowers which they can grow at home - in a garden or just in a window box - and help bring more nature into everyday life. Through its Workshops and other activities it also helps children create their own connections with nature, for example by making magic wands from native trees.

Perhaps you would like to nominate a "Fairy Place" near you or become involved with the Fairyland Trust. If so, contact the Fairyland Trust at [www.fairylandtrust.org](http://www.fairylandtrust.org)

Why not create your own Fairy Garden, with the help of the Fairyland Trust? They have created this Meadow Garden which can be planted up anytime from early Spring (March) through to mid Summer, or from September - early October to give the plants a head start for the following year. This garden will look its best from mid June through to late August.



Photo: © Fairyland Trust

### 1. Setting up

Choose the right spot for your Meadow Flower Fairy garden - as sunny as possible. Try to make sure the earth has not had lots of compost or fertilisers put on it recently (for instance an old vegetable patch or rose bed). Meadow flowers like poor soils - not dark rich ones.

### For containers or window boxes

Remember never to use compost with peat in it, as this is taken from wild bogs that are home for lots of small creatures. We think the fairies would be upset about this - especially the Irish ones. Use soil from the garden or a soil based compost - ask at your local garden centre. Also make sure you don't buy wooden boxes made of wood from really old forests. To be safe use wood with the FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) stamp on it - or use something else like clay or an old recycled plastic pot.

### 2. Build a Fairy House

Why not make a house for visiting fairies? We have made ours from small sticks before we added the plants and then covered it with grasses. Make your house as big or little as you like - you could use all sorts of materials from egg boxes to old pots.

### 3 Add your plants

Dig holes big enough for each plant and give them enough space as they will all get bigger. It is a good idea to put taller plants at the back so that they don't hide the little ones. (The list is too long to mention here but is available on [http://www.fairylandtrust.org/fairygarden\\_meadow.html](http://www.fairylandtrust.org/fairygarden_meadow.html))

### 4. Water Well

It is very important to water your new plants very well as soon as they have been planted as this gives them a really good start in their new home. Make sure your meadow garden does not completely dry out for long times especially if you are growing this in a container or pot. Check at least once a week.

### 5. Add your decorations

We have made lots of silver bells on sticks and made a glittery table and seats from yoghurt pots. Add whatever you like to yours. Try using recycled materials wherever you can as it is free and saves wasting materials you might otherwise throw away. We even made a special fairy cake just in case any small visitors get hungry!

### 6. Keep looking out for those fairies!

### 7. Cut your meadow.

It is very important that in September you trim your meadow with shears (or scissors) to keep the grass short and remove the cuttings - put them on the compost heap or maybe save some seeds by carefully putting the plant tops in brown paper bags and keeping somewhere dry.