

Kid's corner

Growing Veggies in a Bale of Straw

Did you know? Whether your garden is small or large, you can grow veggies in a bale of straw or hay! This is such a fun activity! You could plant out just one bale or go crazy and plant into lots and lots of bales!

For really super results, it is very important to choose your spot wisely as it will need to be well drained and receive at least six hours of sun a day. That's what veggies love!

You can place your bales onto soil or concrete. We laid some Geofabric on the ground before we placed our bales, but you could also use hessian, cardboard or even a wooden pallet. This acts as a barrier, helping to stop any weeds coming through and allows water to escape. If using thick cardboard, poke some small holes into it so it can drain.

I placed two bales side by side. Before you plant your bales with seedlings, water them down for at least four to five days. You could also water in some worm wee if you have a worm farm or any fertiliser that's good for veggies.

I decided to grow seedlings of tomatoes, capsicum, chives and basil.

In your bales, create some holes with your gardening trowel and fill with some good quality soil. Plant your seedlings into this soil. Fill up around your seedlings with some potting mix. Make sure if you are planting tomatoes that you place some stakes into the bale to support your growing tomato bush.

The bales dry out quickly so make sure that you water them regularly. Some fertiliser will promote good growth too!

At the end of the season when you have harvested all of your yummy crops you can dismantle the bales and use the straw or hay to mulch your garden. Perfect!

You can use this method for germinating seeds or growing flowers too! How beautiful would they look!

Get planting kids and remember to send in your photos to operations@opengardensvictoria.org.au

