

# Plastic-Free Tips for Gardeners

By David Perrow



## Plant pots and trays

- **Re-use** any plastic pots you already have
- **Recycle** any you throw out. VWHDC do not recycle plant pots (put them in your Grey bin and they will be incinerated). Waterperry Garden Centre recycles them, or you can take them to OCC recycling centres and put them in the plastics recycling
- **Avoid** buying any more plastic pots by using alternatives such as:
  - Clay/terracotta or fibre or coir plant pots
  - Peat blocks – make your own using a blocking device
  - Paper pots – use old newspapers around a ‘form’ such as a tin, or buy a paper –pot making kit  
<https://www.edenproject.com/learn/for-everyone/make-your-own-newspaper-seed-pots>  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8\\_ynv89F\\_Ik](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_ynv89F_Ik)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7dIGQP81yfo>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pSJab0Re2fA>
  - Tins or plastic yoghurt pots or other such containers – use drainage holes
  - Pots made from recycled or fully biodegradable material
- Use **wooden** seed trays

## Plant labels and twine

- **Re-use** any plastic labels you already have by cleaning them each year
- **Use** wooden sticks (such as old lolly sticks) or other homemade labels you can write on instead of buying more plastic plant labels
- **Use** string or wool (twool) in place of plastic wire

## Compost

Compost always comes in plastic bags which cannot be recycled, so make your own compost if you can by home composting kitchen and garden waste (don't compost any cooked food meat, fish or bones - put those in your kitchen caddy for VWHDC to collect kerbside). Re-use any compost bags to as grow bags for potatoes and other such crops

## Grow your own!

Supermarket fruit and veg wrapped in plastic can be avoided if you grow your own! Use your garden, or apply for an allotment – or join an allotment gardening group such as the one which meets weekly at Peachcroft Farm, Abingdon. To join the group email Bridget on [gyoveg@hotmail.com](mailto:gyoveg@hotmail.com)

## Useful websites:

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/about-the-rhs/Articles/plastic-policy>

<https://friendsoftheearth.uk/plastics/plasticfree-green-gardening-tips-tvs-aly-fowler>

<https://www.burgonandball.com/blogs/news/the-trend-for-plastic-free-gardening>

<http://www.theenglishgarden.co.uk/buyers-guide/green-gardening-recycled-garden-products/>

<http://www.myproductivebackyard.com.au/how-to-grow-2/towards-a-plastic-free-garden/>