

These statements can be used to assess skills before and after a particular task or period of time, enabling pupils and staff to plan horticultural learning and monitor students' progress.

Tool skills

I can use a trowel to make planting holes

I can use a dibber to make planting holes

I can use a hand fork to remove annual weeds

I can use a hoe to remove annual weed seedlings from an unplanted area

I can use a hoe to remove annual weed seedlings from in between crops

I can use a spade to dig soil

I can use a spade to single dig soil

I can use a garden fork to remove perennial weeds

I can use a garden fork to prepare soil

I can use a rake to level soil

I can use a rake to create a fine tilth for sowing

I can use a leaf rake to rake leaves

I can use secateurs to prune

I can prune apples and pears

Planting Skills

I can mark a straight, line using taut string

I can make a straight, level drill to appropriate depth for seed sowing

I can plant a potato

I can sow large seeds such as broad beans and French beans

I can sow medium seeds such as spinach and courgette

I can sow fine seeds such as tomatoes, leeks and lettuce

I can make a paper pot

I can fill a container ready for sowing

I can use a sieve to cover fine seeds with compost

- I can water a container for sowing
- I can write labels
- I can prick out seedlings into their own pots
- I can remove a young plant from its container
- I can plant a young plant into the soil and firm in
- I can plant a tree and stake appropriately

After-Care Skills

- I can net soft fruit to protect from birds
- I can provide some protection from slugs and snails
- I can remove aphids
- I can mulch a planted area
- I can cover a planted area to protect from frost
- I can thin seedlings
- I can water seedlings
- I can water established plants
- I can support plants with pea sticks, canes or netting as appropriate
- I can tie plants to canes as necessary
- I can pinch out plants such as sweet peas, broad beans and tomatoes

Harvesting skills

- I can dig root crops, such as potatoes, parsnips and carrots, without damaging them
- I can pick peas and beans without damaging the plant
- I can harvest leafy crops such as lettuce and spinach without damaging the plant
- I can collect seeds from plants for future use

Planning Skills

- I can measure the garden site
- I can draw a plan of the garden

I can draw a scale plan of the garden

I can choose plants to grow

I can choose where plants should grow based on my knowledge of rotation and conditions required

Construction skills

I can put together raised bed or compost bin kits

I can build raised beds or compost bins from timber

I can make plant supports or structures from willow

Equipment Skills

I can use a watering can with rose, if appropriate, to water plants

I can use a measuring stick to space plants or seeds

I can use a wheelbarrow

I can use a hose to water

Other skills

I can put on my own gloves and put them away as a pair

I can clean my tools after use

I can conduct hand texturing tests of soil to determine soil type

I can conduct a simple pH test to determine soil pH

I can propagate simple cuttings, such as stem or tip cuttings of rosemary and sage

Mentoring Skills

I can train others in some of the skills above

I can train others in most of the skills above

I can train others in all of the skills above

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