

September 2023

We were very surprised when we visited our raised beds after holidays. Many plants were dry, wilted and looking very sad. They desperately needed water! We agreed to appoint Water Monitors for every day, unless it was raining. Also, we used grass clippings to mulch around the dry plants, which is a sustainable way to reduce watering. Mulch stops water from evaporating and keeps it in the soil.

Our next job was collecting seeds. There are thousands of marigolds and calendulas seeds, and we want to sow them next year. We will keep the seeds in a paper bag, in a dry cupboard till February, when the next growing season starts.



Weed it or feed it?

Another urgent matter in September was weeds. There weren't too many of them, because we have cleared the raised beds before holidays. However, some new appeared and needed to be pulled out, because they were using the space and nutrients meant for other plants. We understand that a weed can be any plant, that we don't want to grow, so we discussed what should grow in each bed and pulled the rest. Weeds are not rubbish, though. They ended up in a compost pile and will serve us later.



Strawberries, more strawberries!

Flowers and tomatoes are great, but what we really want to have more are delicious, sweet strawberries. Everyone agreed that we would like to have another patch of strawberries. This time, it needs to be much bigger, so that there is enough fruit for everyone. Without delay, started propagating our strawberries to give them time to grow before winter. Now, we need to find a way to get another raised bed with fertile soil. Maybe parents could help?



How to have better crops?

That's a million-dollar question every gardener tries to answer. We know, that if our plants have enough sunlight, water and space to grow, the next thing we can improve is the nutrients in the soil. That is why we started making compost or even adding banana peels around the plants, hoping they will work.

After some research, we found out that another way of making soil more fertile is comfrey or nettle tea. Well, it was hard to find many nettles in our playground and we weren't sure if we want them around, but comfrey would be great. It has beautiful flowers and bees love them. After they finish blooming, we could use the leaves to make natural, free plant fertiliser. That's why we planted a few black, slimy roots near the raised beds and we hope they will survive the winter and grow well.



The end of September means the end of tomatoes. We are enjoying the last fruit and planning preparation for winter, when we will move our GROWING indoors. Now, our Gardening Club is called Growing Club and we can relate it to our school's values. It makes us reflect on metaphorical meaning of many aspects of our work.

