

Garden Gifts

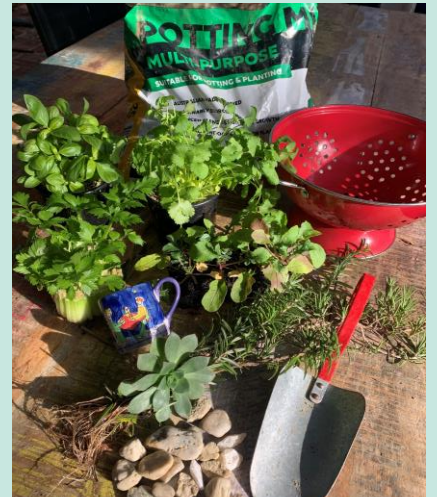
Gardens are full of gifts – new growth, changing colours, flowers, produce and visiting wildlife friends. Transform an old mug or other discarded container and make a garden gift for someone special. What will your container of plants carry – a memory of time spent in the garden together, a message of love, or the promise of a meal together flavoured with home grown herbs?

Things you'll need

- A small container for your garden. Mugs or cups work well. Jars, an old colander, gumboot or teapot could work too!
- Potting mix
- Gravel/pebbles
- Note card

Plant possibilities

- Seedlings from the local garden centre
- Potted herbs from the supermarket
- Succulent cuttings straight from the original plant
- Experiment with other cuttings from your garden. Pop a variety in a water in a sunny window and see which ones grow roots.
- Try regrowing vegetables in the same way – celery, lettuce and spring onions all grow back if you place the ends in water.



How to plant your garden gift

- Place a layer of gravel or pebbles in the bottom of your container. If your container has large holes like a colander, line it with a piece of fabric to stop the soil washing way.
- Fill $\frac{3}{4}$ to the top with potting mix.
- Arrange your plants in the container, then fill the gaps with more potting mix.
- Water gently.
- Write or draw a message on the gift card.

The learning that grows with your Garden gift

Connections with nature. Science – as your child explores plant growth.

Language, vocabulary and communication – as you and your child chat together about planning and planting your garden gift.

Emotional wellbeing – connect with nature and think about special people in your life.

Images from Guardian Gungahlin and VIC/SA Teacher Mentor, Margie Cohen

