

Ty Horticulture Day: Grow Wild Project

By Ruby Kavanagh

On Tuesday the 29th of November all the TY horticulture students took part in different workshops and talks for our “Grow Wild” project. Our first workshop was out in the poly tunnels with a woman called Betty Kehoe, who works as a garden landscaper and designer with a passion for composting. She taught us the importance composting has on our environment such as saving biodegradable materials from ending up in landfills and then creating greenhouse gases. Betty brought in a few different compostable materials that can be further categorised into green materials and brown materials. To have a sufficient compost heap you must have an even blend of both types of materials to balance each other out. Examples of green material are grass clippings and plant-based foods, such as fruit peels and coffee grounds. Examples of brown materials are leaves and shredded home-based products such as cardboard and kitchen towels. These materials are one of the only five essentials needed for composting. The others include; moisture, aeration, particle size (small particles for a quicker result) and whichever type of composter is best suited for your area. Before she was finished, she gave us all out a composting guide for all our composting needs. Our biggest hope now is for the school to start composting as future horticulture classes could use the soil to grow fresh produce in years to come.



After break we headed to a talk with the creator and chairperson of the Enniscorthy allotments, Michael Devereaux. He took us through a PowerPoint on the thought process behind the allotments, the execution of creating them and the final products. These allotments are located right beside the sports hub in Enniscorthy. There are over fifty allotments in total, along with a poly tunnel and many picnic tables scattered around to have a rest after a hard day's work planting and gardening. These were only opened this year but have proven quite popular amongst the local community. Many local groups such as primary school classes and organisations rent out plots to encourage self-sufficiency to younger generations and to interest them in a new hobby. He hopes to get more land over the next few months to expand what he's created and give more people the opportunity to grow and take care of their own plants and produce. We all thought this was a brilliant idea and we would love to see more green areas like this around our local areas.



Right before lunch Jonathan King from the county council came in to talk to us about our ideas to do with the design of the school garden and the poly tunnels. He split us us into groups and got us to come up with ideas. From deciding what greens to grow to creating a school mascot we designed up a storm to bring back to Jonathan. We developed a plan on the raised beds we would put into the poly tunnel including the building and decorating processes. We also hope to have many fruit trees planted up in the garden, a compost heap and many more things to hopefully come to fruition in the near future. After this we made our way out to the garden along with the justice and peace committee. We were given a tour of the garden and to our surprise the very back of the garden is shaping up to be an outdoor classroom, which will be fun for classes in the spring next year. After lunch we all met back in Teresa Ball to have our final chats with Jonathan about our ideas and we made plans to start construction in the poly tunnel over the next few weeks. We relaxed for the last class after Jonathan left as we were all tired after our really exciting and busy day.