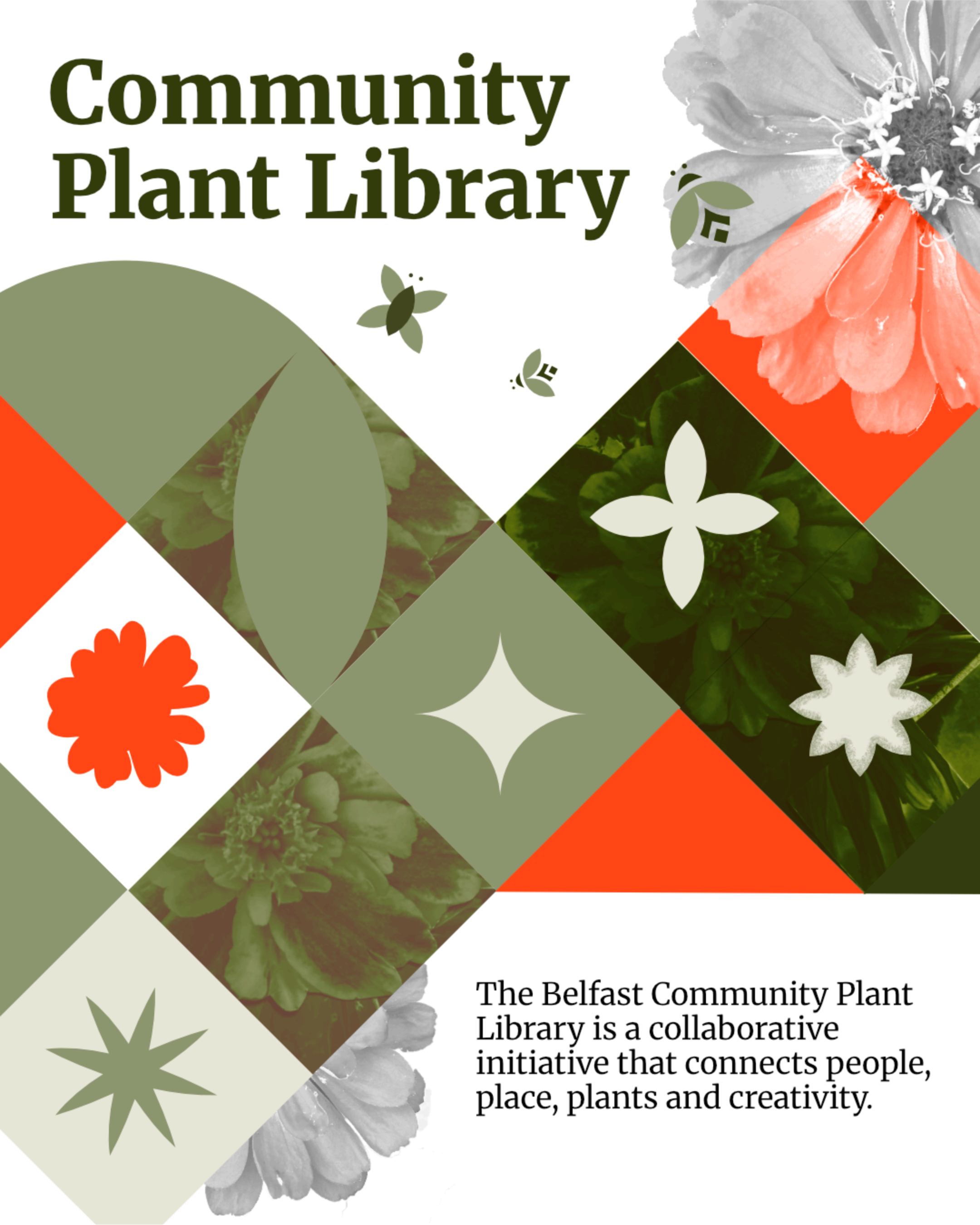


Community Plant Library



The Belfast Community Plant Library is a collaborative initiative that connects people, place, plants and creativity.

The GIANT Plant Zine!

This zine shares the plant stories, tips and projects we have gathered throughout our Community Plant Library project.

With thanks to Rachel Cowie & Beth Schmidt (Design Hothouse Residents), David Keys, Nonglak McFadden, Ana Chirinciuc, Jilly Dougan and the One Bite Design Team who have all contributed so thoughtfully throughout, adding flavour, texture, ideas and energy!



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Content by:
Blick Shared Studios
Karishma's World
Belfast Design Week
Guest Contributors

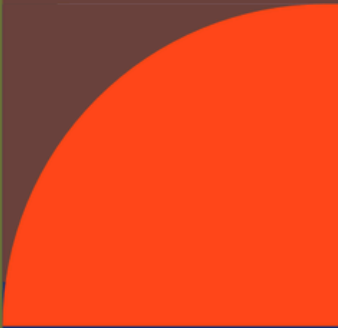
Artwork by:
Rachel Cowie & Beth Schmidt
(Design Hothouse Residents)



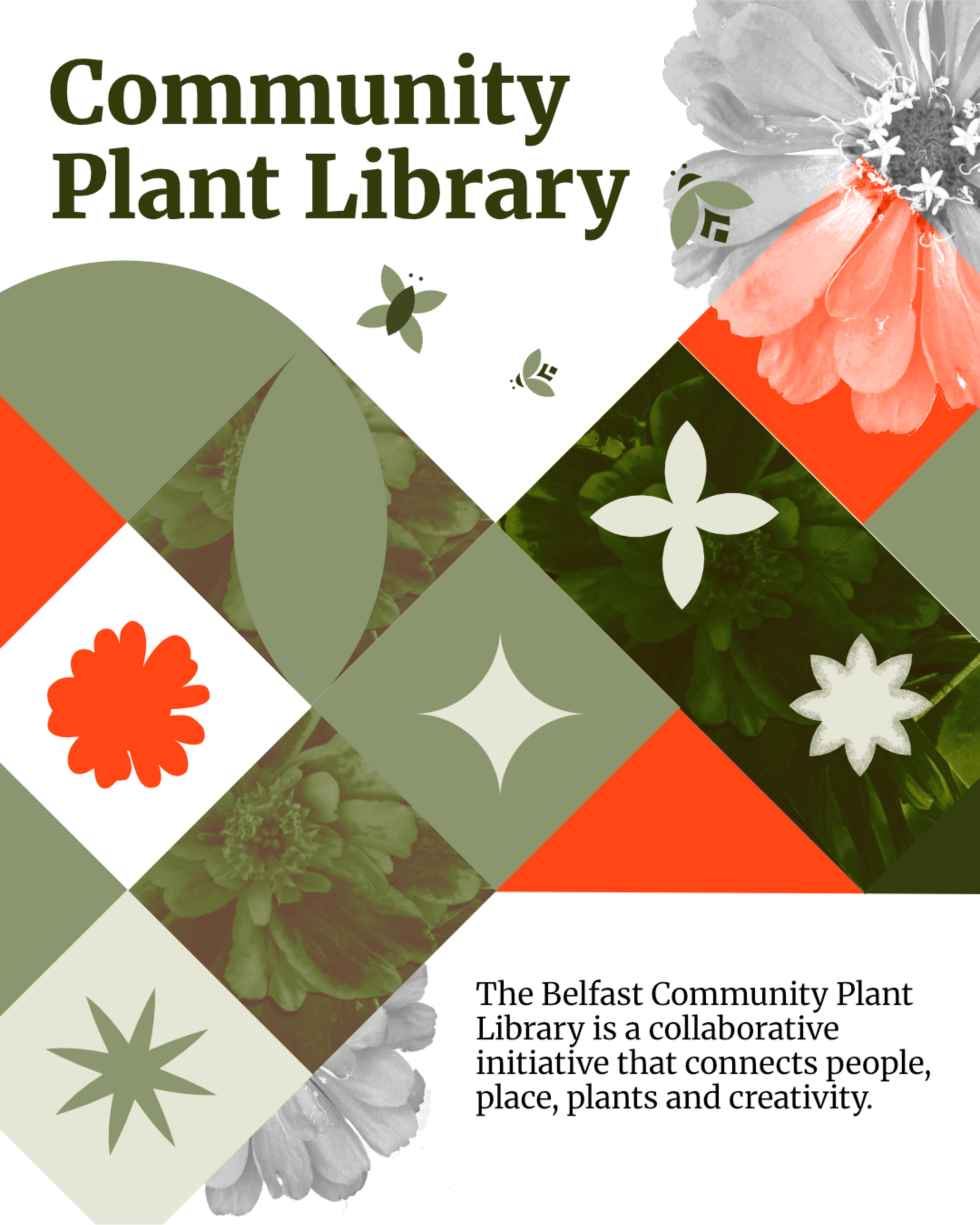
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Community Plant Library



The Belfast Community Plant Library is a collaborative initiative that connects people, place, plants and creativity.

Community Plant Library

Bankmore Square
4-10pm * 18.09.26



DESIGN
AFTER
DARK

Community Plant Library

*Community Co-design
Workshop*



*Bankmore Square
4-10pm * 18.09.26*



DESIGN
AFTER
DARK

Bankmore Square
4-10pm * 18.09.26



Community Plant Library

Community Plant Clinic

How The Idea Came About

The project was inspired by an impromptu meeting between Belfast Design Week, Blick Shared Studios and One Bite Design Studio in Hong Kong in 2024, where they discovered a shared set of values and a common vision for creating meaningful, plant-centred community spaces.



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We were travelling to Hong Kong to work on an interactive design installation for the British Council's Spark Festival 2024. We got a last minute invite to visit Alan from One Bite Design at his studio. Outside, on the street, we saw the Hong Kong Community Plant Library and loved the concept. It was an accessible, welcoming intervention that used plants to create new opportunities for interaction in the city.

We left the meeting inspired not only by the plant library itself, but by the possibilities it represented: a relatively simple design intervention capable of making a city greener, encouraging people to explore their neighbourhoods and creating unexpected points of connection. What began as an informal meeting became the starting point for a longer-term collaboration as well as an interest in creating interactive design led installations for cultural events and festivals.



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Design Your Life Interactive Design Installation Hong Kong

*Meeting Alan from One Bite and
developing a passion for interactive
design led activities at cultural events*







**Buying Plants in
Hong Kong for our
Interactive Design
Installation**



Grow Your Own Way

At the time we had recently completed Grow Your Own Way, a project that brought designers and gardeners together to explore how residents in Belfast's Botanic and Holylands areas could be supported to grow their own food within the city. The project opened up a wider question: how might design help bring the benefits of nature closer to people living, working, studying and visiting Belfast?



Grow Your Own Project

Bringing together designers and growers and learning about the impact of plants and nature on our health and wellbeing and the lack of green spaces in some areas of Belfast.





2025 One Bite Visit To Belfast

In 2025, One Bite's Alan and business partner Sarah visited Belfast to see around the city and visit some of the design led green projects including 9ft in Common and Brink A Growing Story as well as a tour of the Linen Quarter. Exploring the similarities and differences between our cities and thinking about how we might work together in the future.



9ft in Common
Alleyways Tour





Brink! A Growing Story Urban Garden Visit







Linen Quarter Tour







Linen Quarter Tour

Bankmore Square (the location of our Culture Night event)



2025 Islands of Design Collaboration

We then went on to collaborate on the Islands of Design Workshops and Talks for Irish Design Week 2025, further developing our shared interests in design, community and place.

A portrait of Kevin, a man with dark hair and glasses, smiling. He is wearing a dark blue button-down shirt over a white t-shirt. The background is a blurred indoor setting with warm lighting and festive decorations, including gold garlands and colorful ornaments.

Kevin from One Bite Design Studio

Kevin will be joining us for Culture
Night



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01

Dig a pond! Adding a water feature or pond is the single most effective way to welcome wildlife to your garden.

Even the smallest pond will attract frogs, newts and dragonflies. Make sure it has at least one sloping side so creatures can climb out safely.

If you have limited space, a large half barrel or inverted dustbin lid filled with water works well.



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02

Let areas go to seed.

Leave dead flower heads intact or during Autumn and Winter so birds can feed on the seeds.



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03

If your garden is enclosed, consider cutting a small 13 x 13cm hole at the bottom of the fence to create a 'hedgehog highway' for wandering hedgehogs.



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04

Stop mowing a patch of your lawn or trim it every 4 weeks to let daisies, clover and wildflowers bloom for pollinators.



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05

Plant native flowers
so that insects have
nectar to feed on.

Even a small garden
can have a hanging
basket, window
boxes and plant
pots.



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06

Ditch pesticides.

Avoid using
insecticides, weed
killers and
artificial slug
pellets which can
harm insects,
birds, frogs and
toads.



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07

Set up a bird bath using a simple shallow dish to provide drinking and bathing water for local birds.

Change water regularly and add some sticks and stones for any wildlife to rest on.



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08

Add a bird feeder.

The birds will
really flock to your
garden and tell
their friends too!

*Remember to clean
it regularly.*



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09

Create a woodpile!

Many insects such as butterflies, spiders, slaters and wasps use woodpiles as a place to hide and hibernate through the colder months.



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10

Nettles are good! Although we're not fond of their stings, nettles are extremely important for biodiversity.

Lots of butterfly species are very fond of nettles.

Not only using the plants as a source of food, but also to lay their eggs on them.



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Community Plant Library

*Interactive Plant
Furniture Exhibition*

DESIGN
AFTER
DARK

*Bankmore Square
4-10pm * 18.09.26*

First plant to make you fall in love with taking care of plants

*We asked the people of Belfast
about the first plant that made
them fall in love with taking
care of plants*



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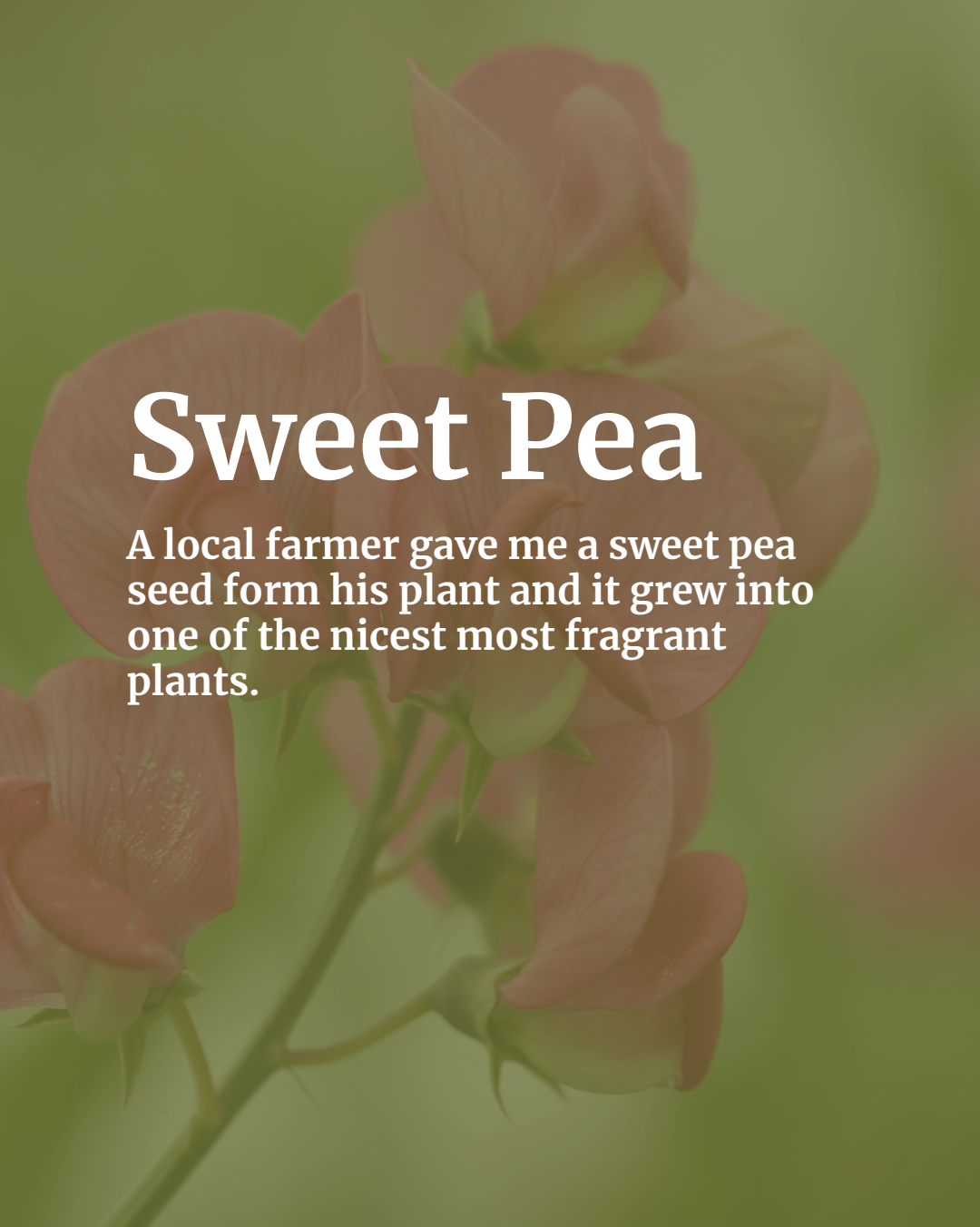
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Fern

My fern, I had been struggling at the time I got it and taking care of it helped me remember to take care of myself and keep getting up each day.

A close-up photograph of several light pink sweet pea flowers with delicate, ruffled petals. The flowers are set against a soft, out-of-focus green background. The lighting is natural, highlighting the texture of the petals.

Sweet Pea

A local farmer gave me a sweet pea seed form his plant and it grew into one of the nicest most fragrant plants.

A close-up photograph of lush green watercress plants, showing their characteristic rounded, slightly lobed leaves. The plants are densely packed and appear to be growing in a container, possibly with cotton wool as mentioned in the text. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the leaves.

Watercress

Watercress – growing it in cotton wool was something that was taught to us in school and I remember being amazed at how easily plants could be grown.



Busy Lizzies

*Growing Busy Lizzies in my first
window box when I was 15*



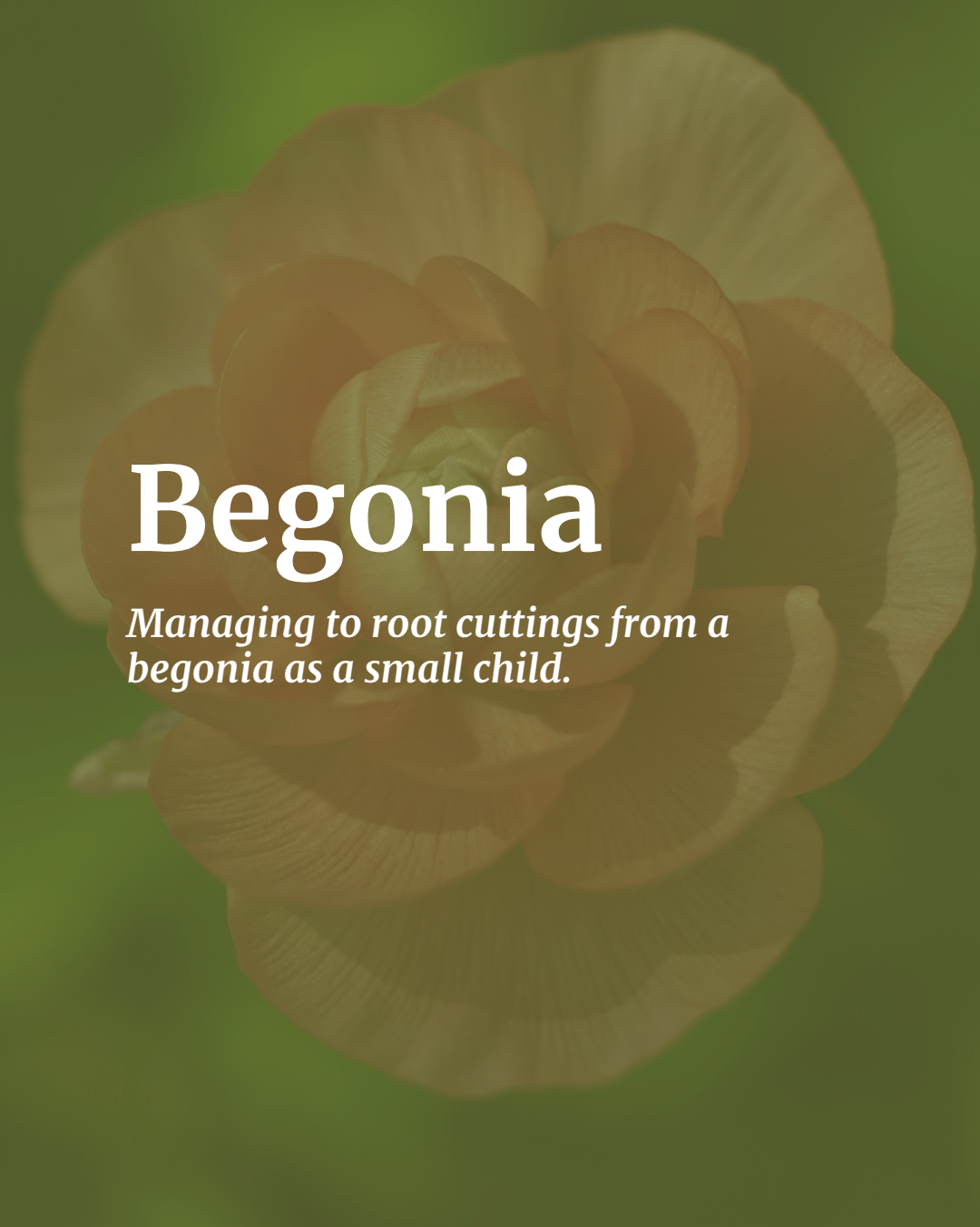
Mesembrya -nthemum

It's vibrant colours are so captivating!

A dark, almost black, rose is the central focus of the image. It is set against a solid, muted green background. The rose's petals are tightly packed and layered, creating a sense of depth and texture. The lighting is soft, highlighting the edges of the petals and giving the rose a slightly three-dimensional appearance. The overall mood is elegant and mysterious.

Black Prince Rose

A rose called the Black Prince



Begonia

Managing to root cuttings from a begonia as a small child.



Primrose

Primroses in my parents garden.

Corn

My mum taught me to plant, water and tend to one corn plant. I checked on that thing every morning like a patient and enjoyed the cob when it matured. Though it was done to keep me away from some of their more precious plants, I loved it and I still enjoy seeing the growth progress of plants.



Belfast Community Plant Library Team Plant Stories – Rachel Cowie (Design Resident)

Here we get to meet some of the team behind the project and find out about their love of plants and why they wanted to get involved

Can you introduce
yourself and tell
us a little bit
about your role in
the project?

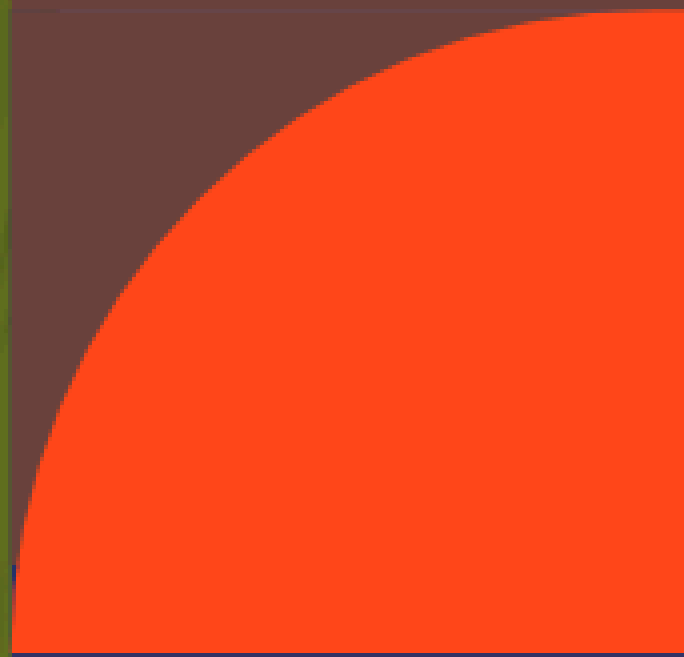
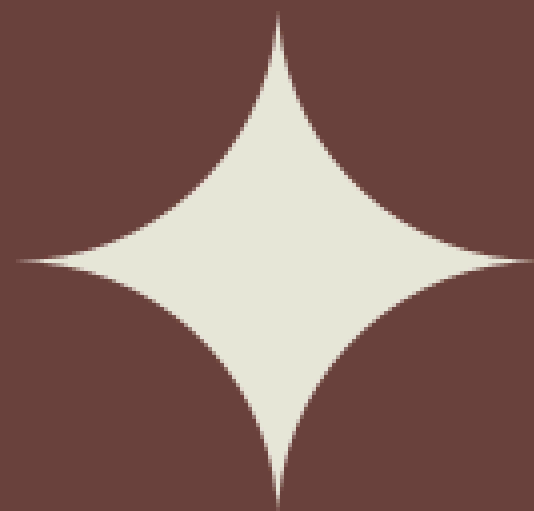
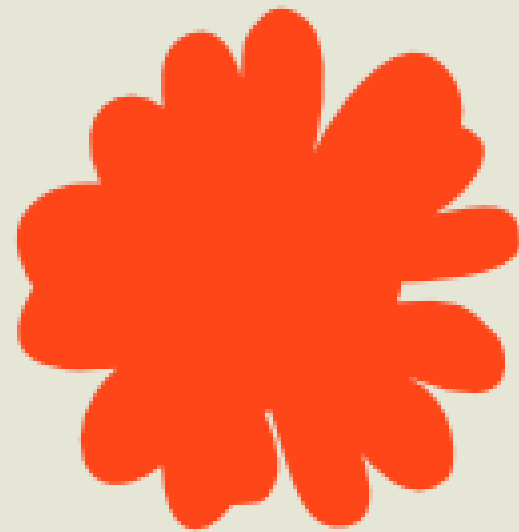
I'm a multidisciplinary designer in
residence for Blick Shared Studio
and Hothouse residency program.



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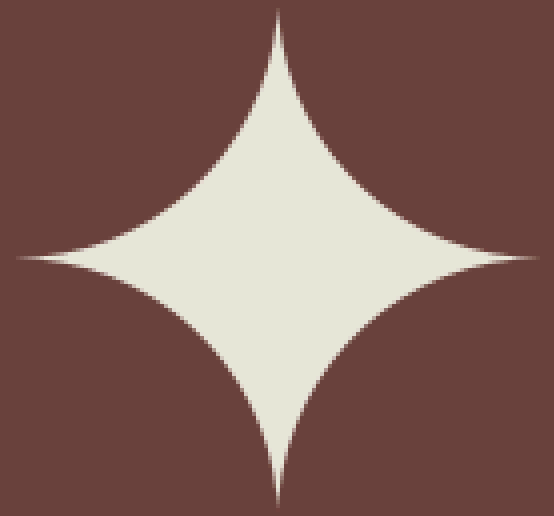
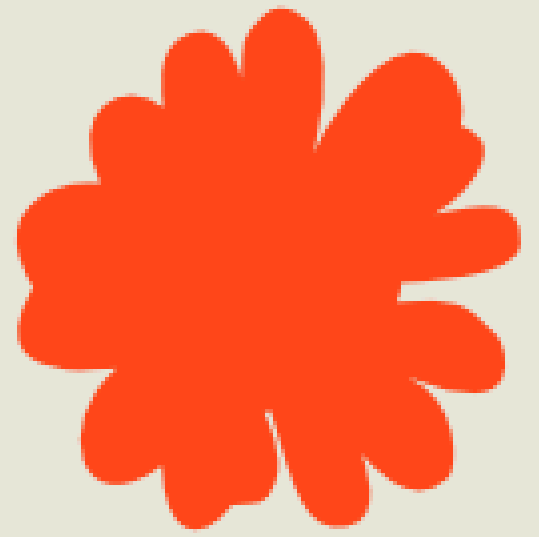
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What's your earliest plant memory?

My earliest plant memory is a mix between picking blackberries with my mum and granny and (accidentally) growing oak trees in the sandpit at home, I'm not exactly sure which of them is the earliest memory.

Myself and my brother used to collect acorns and conkers to play with when walking home from nursery with our mum – many of which would be forgotten about in the back garden and take root. During those same walks home we would collect blackberries and crab apples to make crumbles and jams from.



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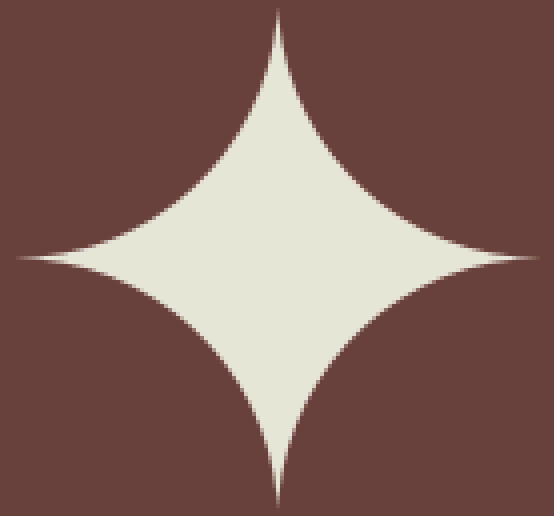
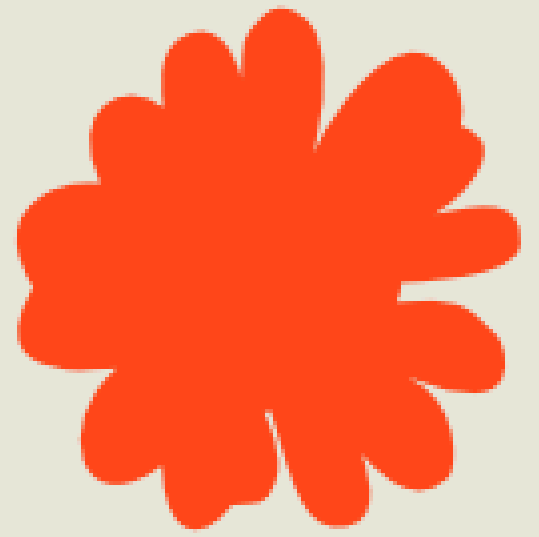
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If you could only have one plant in your life, which one would it be and why?

That's a difficult question, possibly Rhubarb? Though it's admittedly for nostalgia and a love for Rhubarb and mixed berry crumble. Growing up my mum and gran always had a few rhubarb crowns in the garden, then when visiting family in Scotland we'd visit an abandoned cottage garden (essentially a ruin and severely overgrown) by a lough we'd occasionally go swimming or kayaking in to pick a few stalks.

A few cool facts about Rhubarb, it can live for up to 15 years, some reaching 20 years with the proper care and it's toxic leaves can be boiled down to make a natural insecticide. It also belongs to the Polygonaceae family making it a close cousin to Buckwheat and Sorrel.



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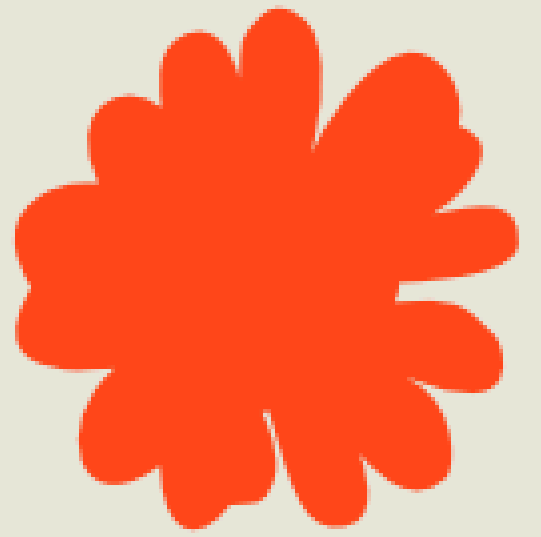
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What was the first plant that made you fall in love with taking care of plants?

My fern, I had been struggling at the time I got it and taking care of it helped me remember to take care of myself and keep getting up each day.



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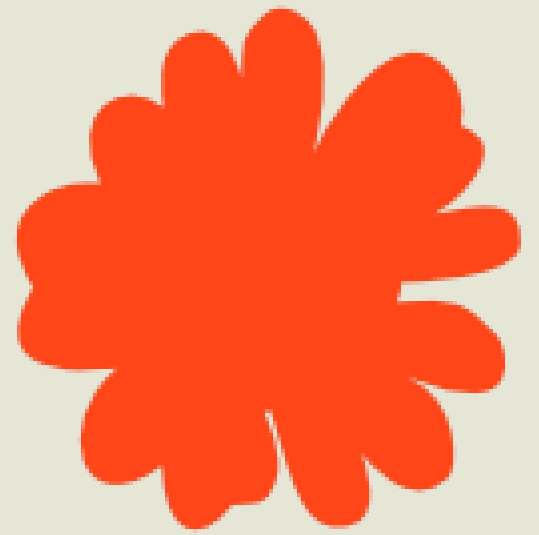
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What is your biggest or silliest plant care mistake?

Planting carrots in compost that
hadn't been sieved, they all came out
twisted and quirky looking, small
too!



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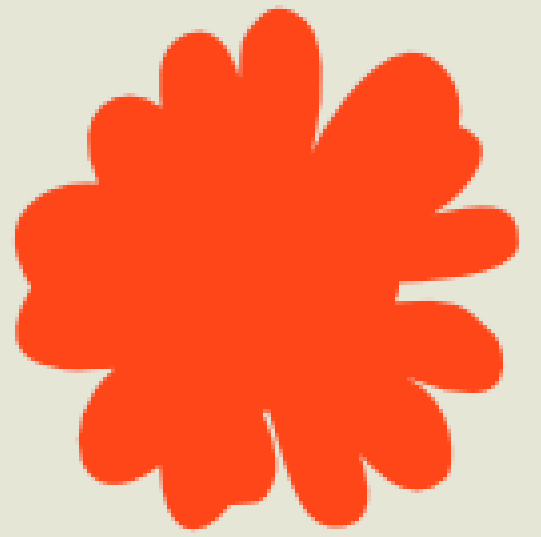
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Which plant do you find the hardest to keep alive?

My succulents, ironic since they're meant to be good for beginners and can survive with irregular watering.



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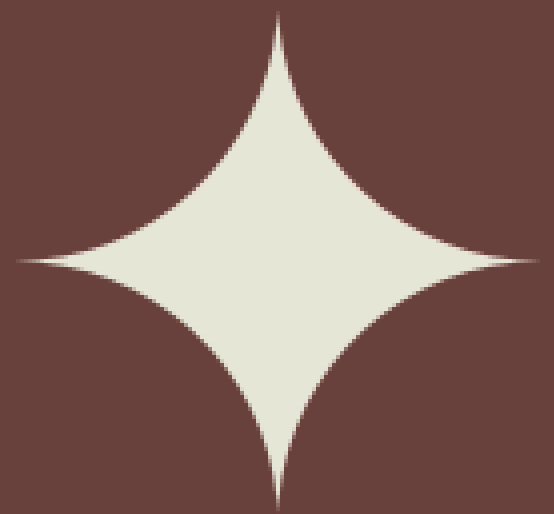
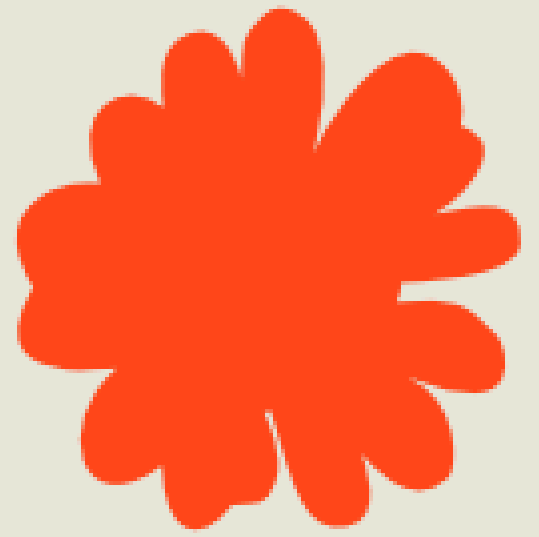
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Do you have any plant care tips or advice you would like to share?

Potted herbs from the grocery store are overcrowded in their pots, this causes them to become root bound and fight over water and nutrients. If you want them to last longer separate them into 2 or 3 pots. Basil is also extremely easy to take cuttings from, cut about 3-5", strip bottom leaves off the cuttings and place in water, within a few days it'll have roots, from there you can plant them in compost.



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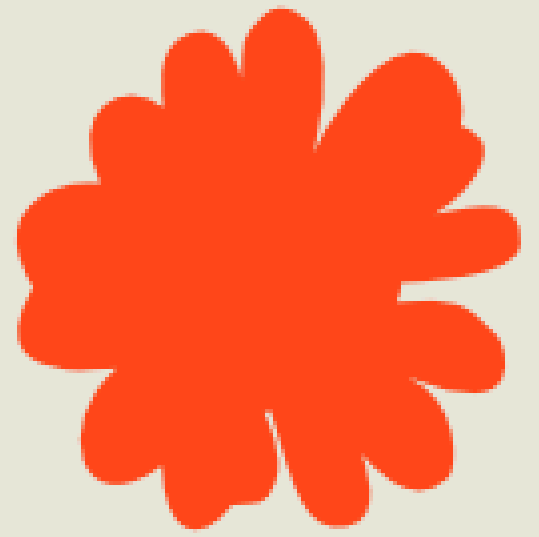
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How does taking care of a living green thing change a person's mood?

I've found it calms me, particularly when I feel low or panicked from climate anxiety and life. I do find myself gravitating towards the garden to prune, transplant or just to be around my plants and veggies as a way of grounding myself.



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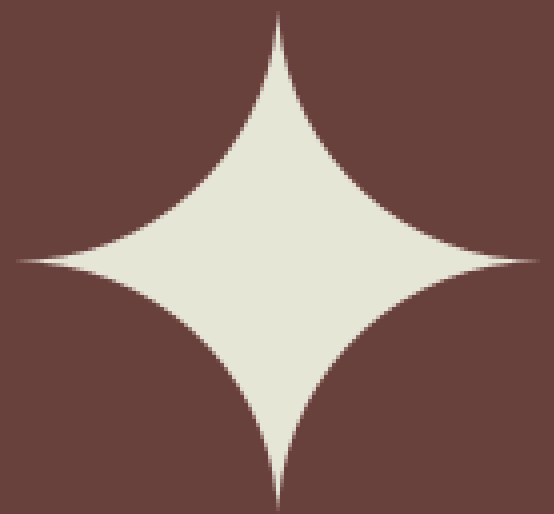
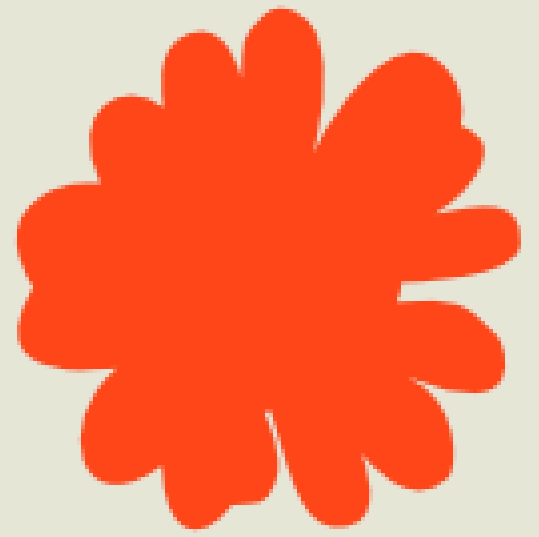
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How can humans work better with plants to fix environmental problems?

We need more trees and polycultures to aid in water retention and improve soil quality, we could also plant nitrogen hungry plants near rivers and bodies of water and more native flora such as Yellow Rattle in areas of bare ground to get natural meadows started.



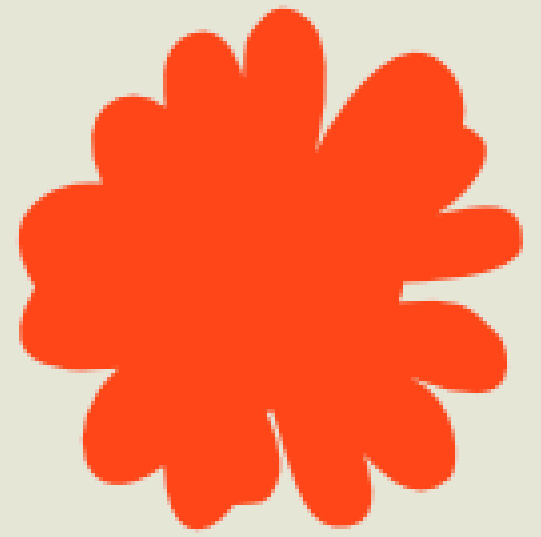
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Exposed soil is dead soil, it dries out, can become compacted or hydrophobic and devoid of life and the organisms needed for growing healthy plants and producing good soil. Ways to reduce exposed soil could be mulching with organic matter like grass cuttings or wood chips, reduce tilling that damages fragile mycelium networks and plant living roots that reach deep into the ground whilst providing ground cover and try to work in tandem with nature. For example if you spot ants in a patch of ground it normally means it's compacted as the firmer soil holds the tunnels and passages more easily, a way to rectify this is by mulching on top of the ground and applying molasses, and because the ants dug out passages the soil will have more structure and airflow compared to when they first arrived, meaning healthier soil and plants.

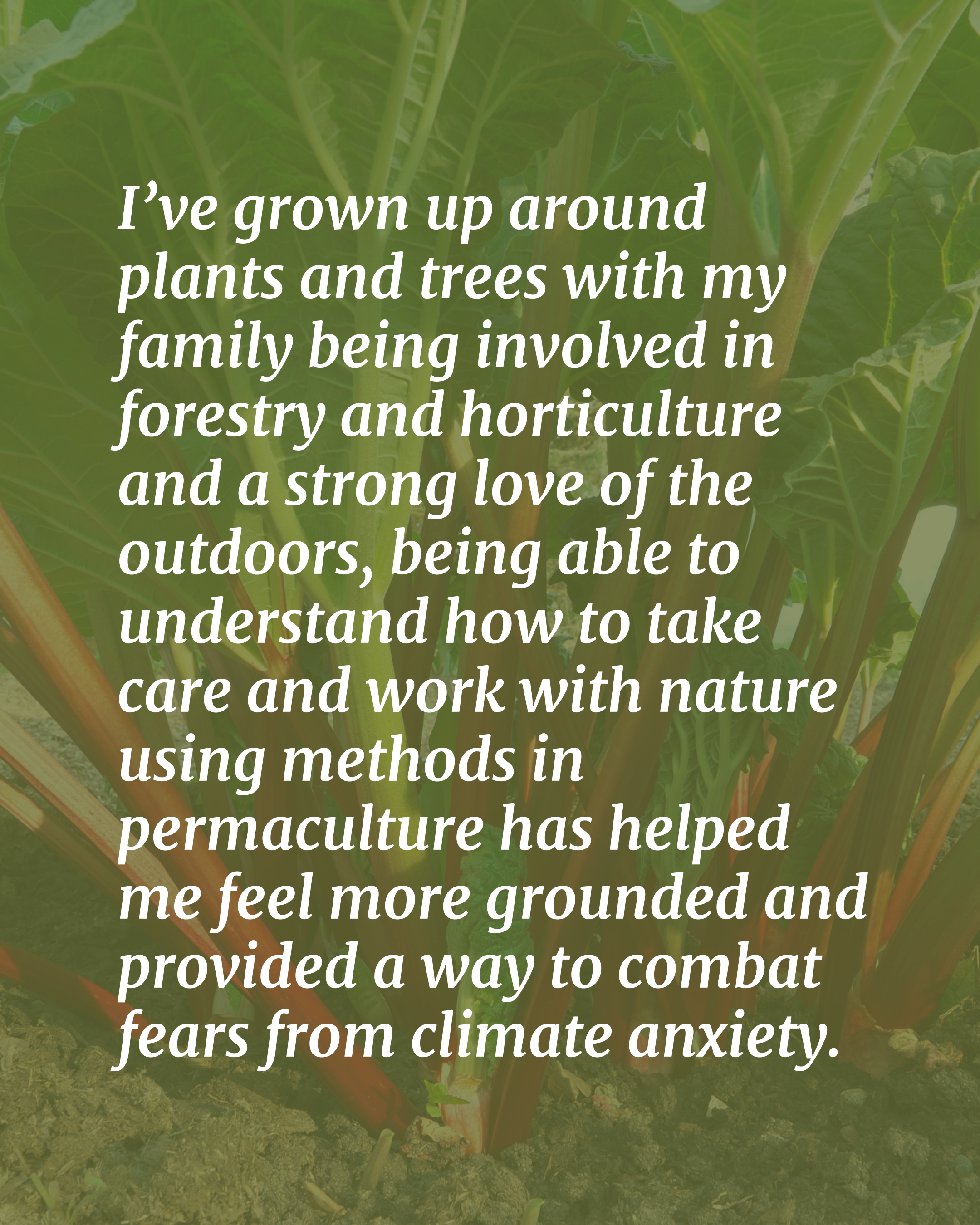


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I've grown up around plants and trees with my family being involved in forestry and horticulture and a strong love of the outdoors, being able to understand how to take care and work with nature using methods in permaculture has helped me feel more grounded and provided a way to combat fears from climate anxiety.

10 Plant Care Tips

*We asked the people of
Belfast for their top plant
care tips*

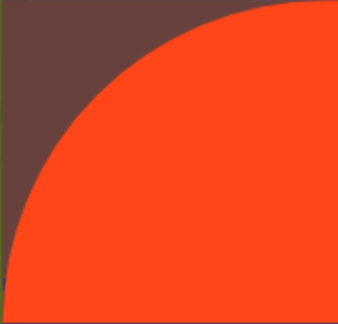
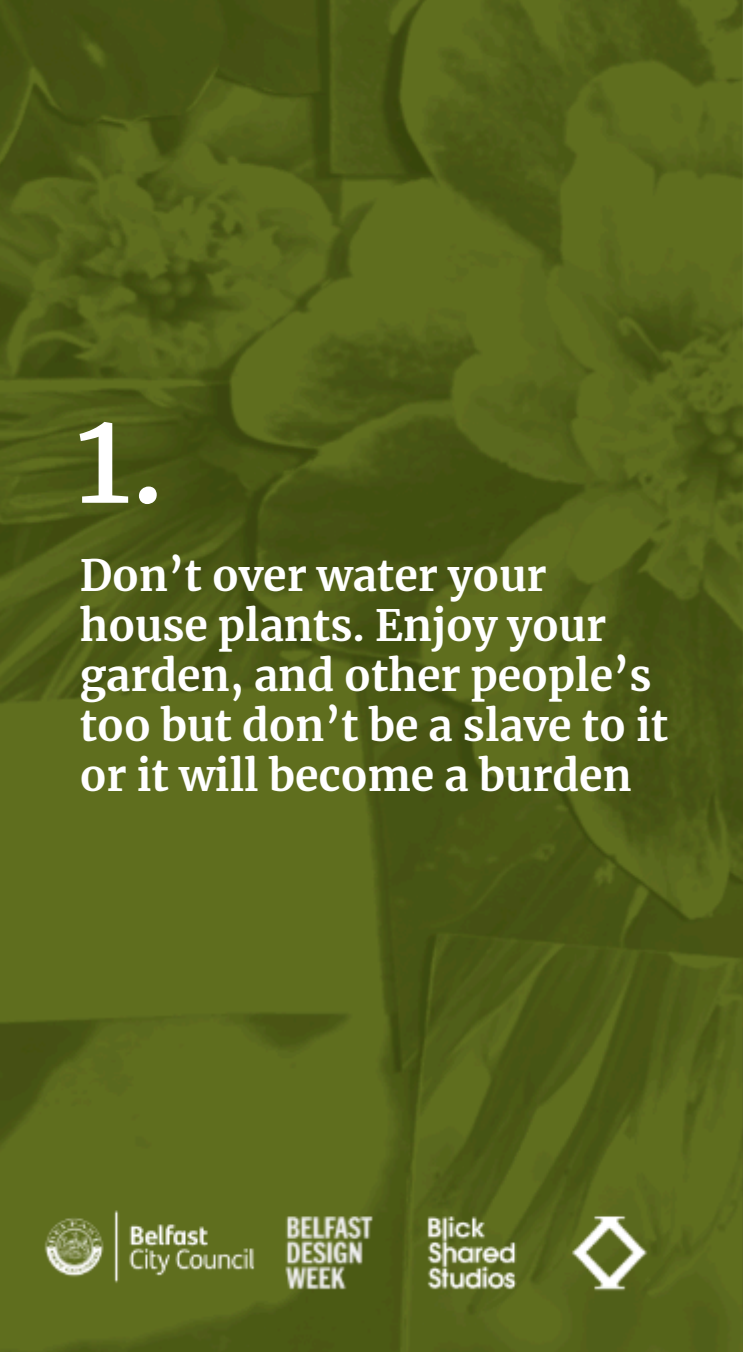


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1.

Don't over water your house plants. Enjoy your garden, and other people's too but don't be a slave to it or it will become a burden



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2.

Find a native plant suitable
for the land/ pot/ garden
you have and be content.



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3.

Soaking banana peels in a watering can for a couple of days and then feeding the plants.



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4.

Potted herbs from the grocery store are overcrowded in their pots, this causes them to become root bound and fight over water and nutrients. If you want them to last longer separate them into 2 or 3 pots. Basil is also extremely easy to take cuttings from, cut about 3-5", strip bottom leaves off the cuttings and place in water, within a few days it'll have roots, from there you can plant them in compost.



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5.

De-heading dried blooms is very important.



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6.

To not over-water plants as it can be tempting to constantly top them up with water.



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7.

It takes a while to know what will work in your flower bed and may take some trial and error. As a non-expert I have found that lots of things i planted just didn't work with the soil/light/shade I had and i often couldn't work it out in advance so it involved trial and error.

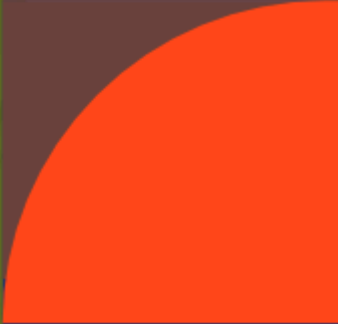


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8.

Learn your garden conditions and buy what works for those conditions rather than what you wished worked.



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9.

Plants really do want to grow, so the trick is to give them a place to grow with compost/soil, enough water and light. Also, don't be in a hurry to transplant seedlings outside in spring, or give them shelter if you do – the weather and temperature can be so changeable then.



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10.

Don't forget to get a friend or family member to look after them when you go on holiday.



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A woman with long brown hair, wearing a light blue button-down shirt, is harvesting purple cornflowers in a garden. She is using black-handled scissors to cut the flowers. In her left arm, she holds a large, shallow wooden basket filled with a variety of flowers, including yellow daisies, purple cornflowers, and small purple pansies. The garden is filled with rows of purple cornflowers, and a green netting structure is visible in the background.

Belfast Community Plant Library Team Plant Stories – Jilly Dougan Gardener

Here we get to meet some of the team behind the project and find out about their love of plants and why they wanted to get involved

Can you introduce yourself and tell us a little bit about your role in the project?

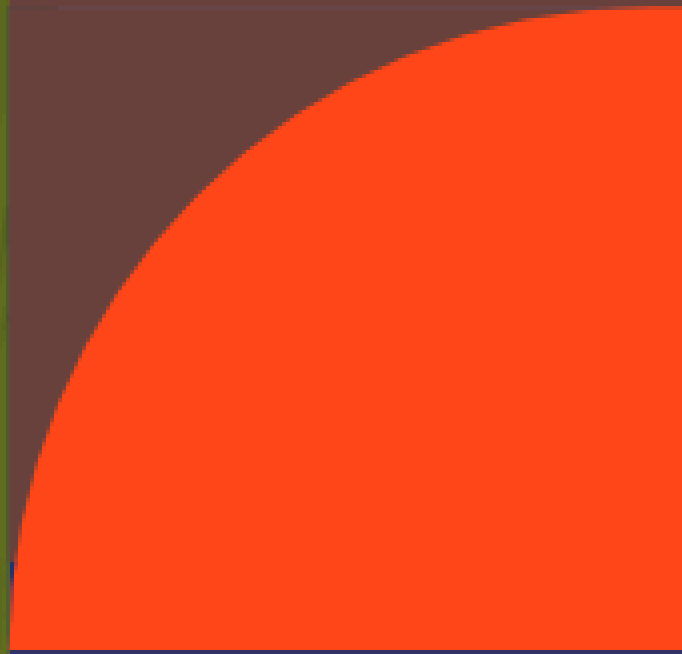
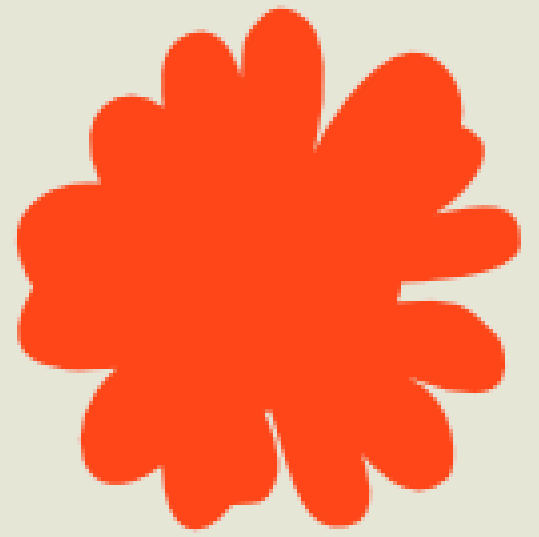
My name is Jilly Dougan and I am a gardener, growing fruit, veg, and herbs in an organic way and creating spaces for wildlife, increasing habitat and encouraging biodiversity.



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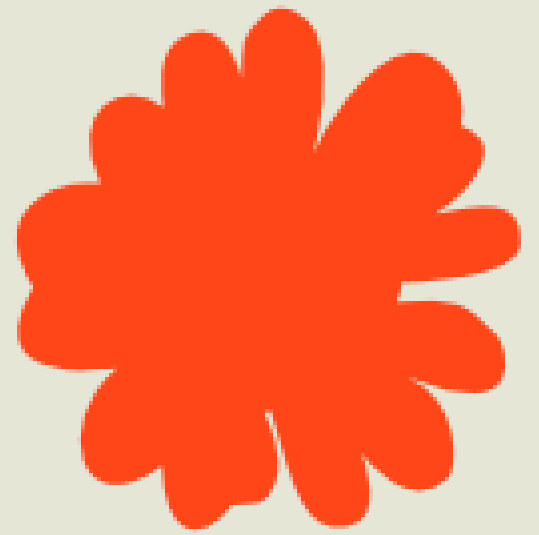
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What's your earliest plant memory?

I think from a very young age in Fermanagh where my granny lived. When there we were always outside and they grew fruit and veg and farmed extensively. We also had lots of houseplants at home.



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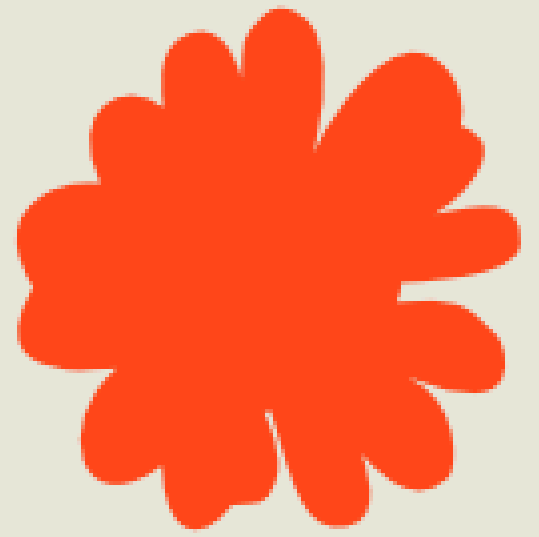
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If you could only have one plant in your life, which one would it be and why?

Sooooo hard to choose one! Either an apple tree (dessert eating variety) OR the humble carrot – delicious raw, grated into salads, as a crudite for dips, added to soups, stews and pasta sauces, roasted or steamed.....nutritionally awesome too.



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Which plant do you find the hardest to keep alive?

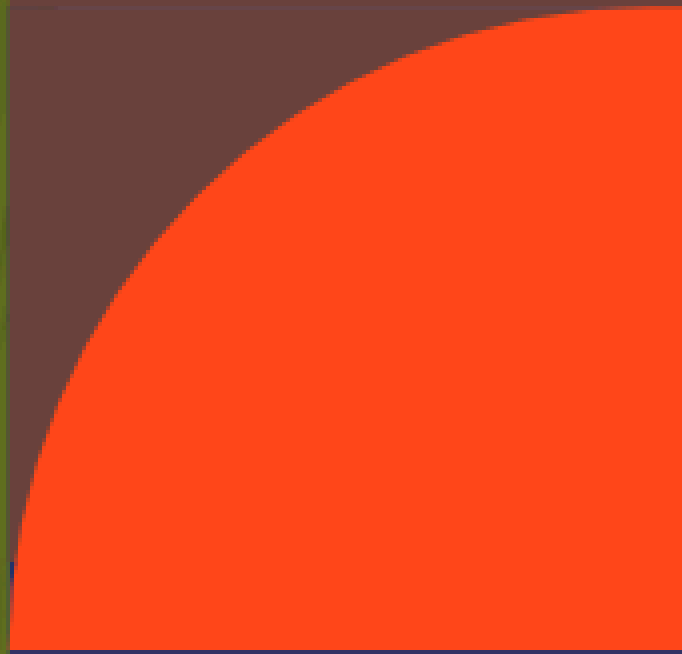
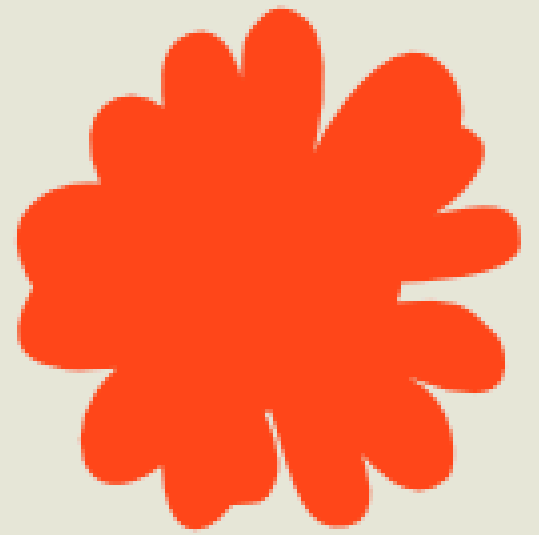
Basil, especially if you buy the small supermarket pots – far too many seedlings in one pot so the trick is to divide and/or transplant into bigger pots with fresh compost.



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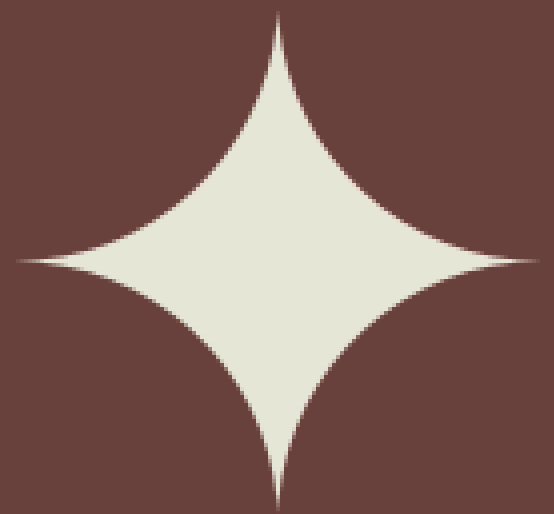
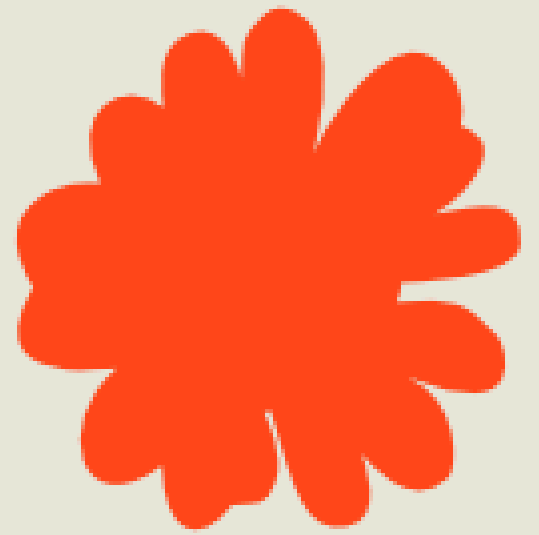
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Do you have any plant care tips or advice you would like to share?

Plants really do want to grow, so the trick is to give them a place to grow with compost/soil, enough water and light. Also, don't be in a hurry to transplant seedlings outside in spring, or give them shelter if you do – the weather and temperature can be so changeable then.



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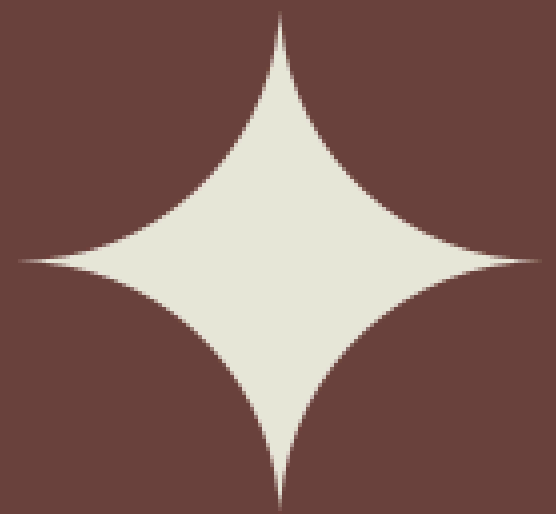
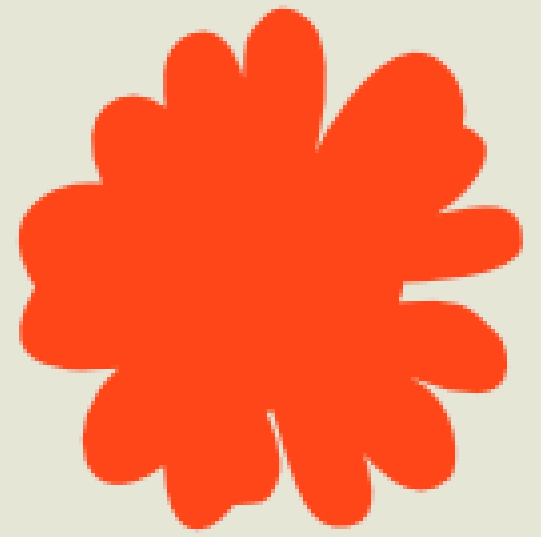
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How does taking care of a living green thing change a person's mood?

I think caring for anything that's living, like a plant or animal, makes us focus on something other than ourselves. Sometimes, if your mood is low, just being outside, listening to nature, watching things grow, helping that process and taking time to appreciate the results can be powerful.



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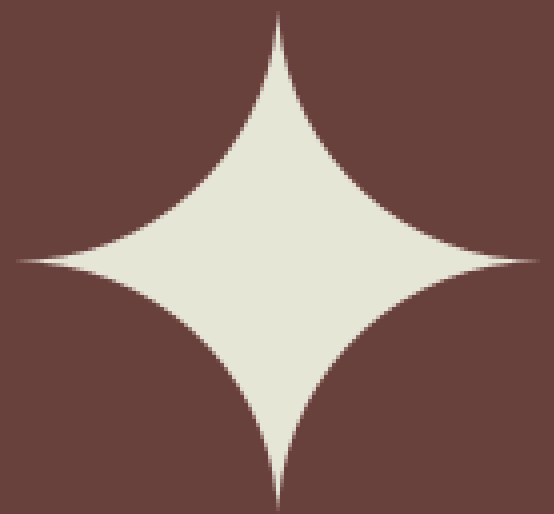
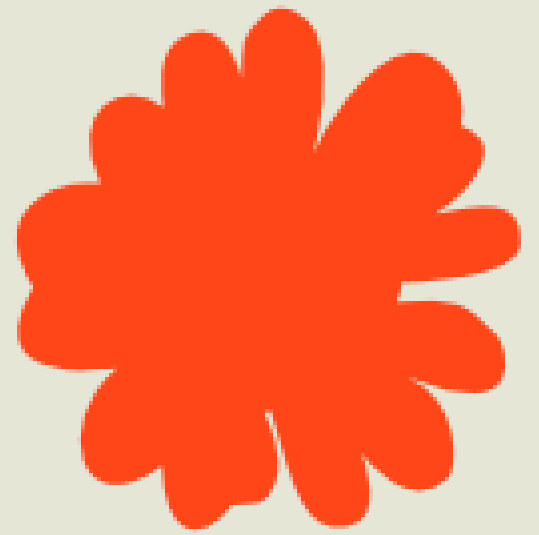
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How can humans work better with plants to fix environmental problems?

Nature based solutions are going to be essential for our planet as the climate is undoubtedly changing. Plants produce oxygen, shade, and food and sequester carbon from the atmosphere. They can also clean and reinvigorate polluted and tired soil, and feed the soil inhabitants.

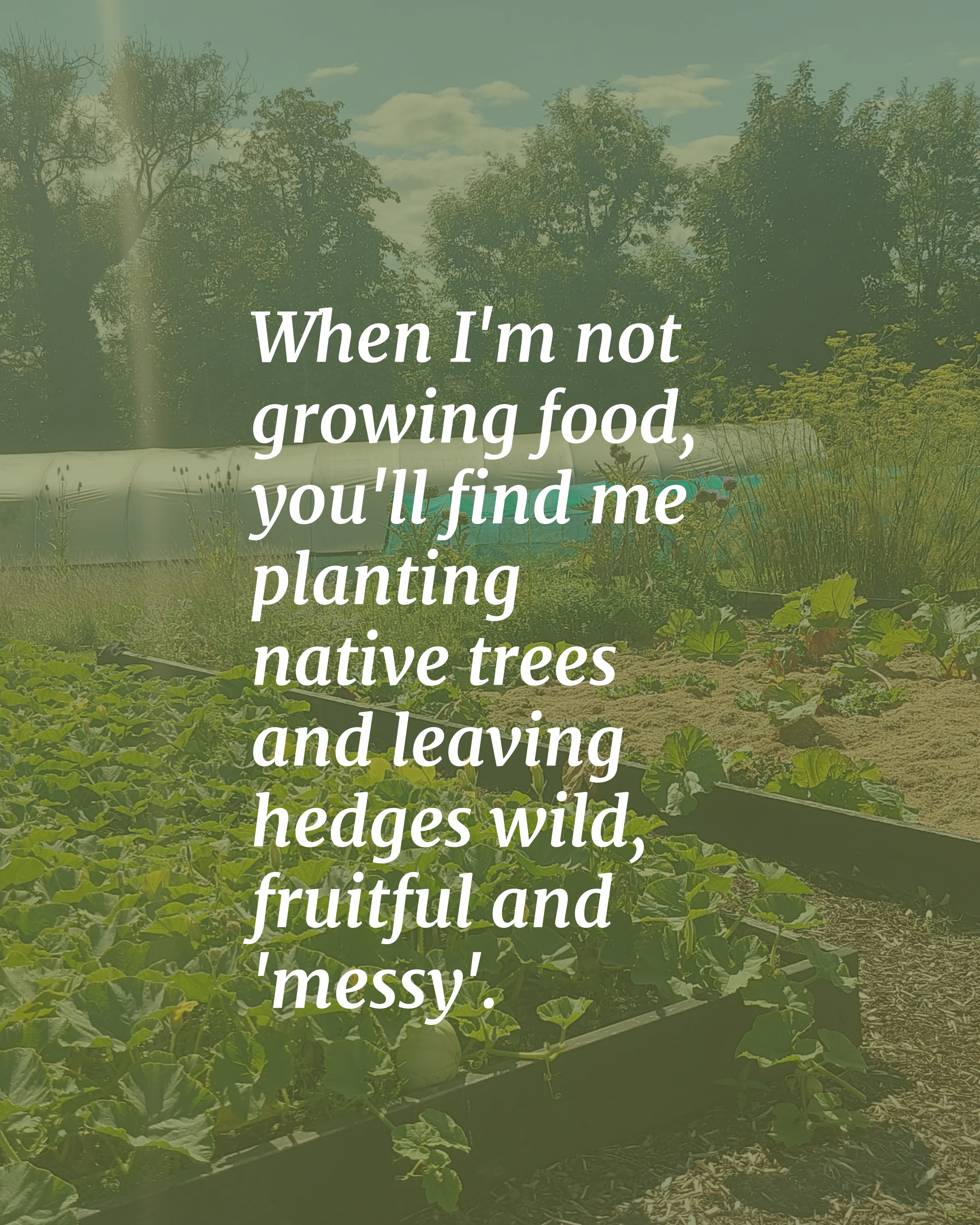


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A photograph of a garden with raised beds, a greenhouse, and trees in the background. The text is overlaid on the image.

*When I'm not
growing food,
you'll find me
planting
native trees
and leaving
hedges wild,
fruitful and
'messy'.*



Europa Roof Garden

10 Biggest or Silliest Plant Care Mistakes

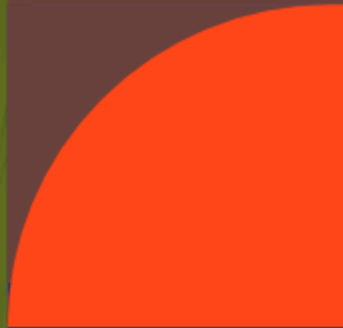
*We asked the people of Belfast
for their plant care mistakes*



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1.

Planting shrubs too close together.



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2.

Oh no, was going away for over a month and had no one to water one of my roses. In desperation I left it sitting in what I thought would be enough water to keep it going. Drowned the poor plant and I am still mad at myself.



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3.

Trying to grow slightly
tender things in our garden
which is in a frost pocket.



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4.

Taking too many years to realise that choosing the 'right plant for the right place' à la Beth Chatto was the best way to reduce high plant morbidity in my garden!



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5.

My plant Spike (a snake plant) is out of control. We got him in Ikea about 10 years ago and he was a tiny thing with spiky leaves in a row that looked like a mohawk. In our current house, he has really thrived to the point his leaves now reach the ceiling and he looks like he is trying to take over the house like a creature bursting forth from a pot. So he is literally the "biggest" mistake as I think we should have perhaps pruned or plaited him and we aren't sure what to do next!



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6.

I once planted some garden peas and checked the following morning to see if they had started growing yet. I'm a bit impatient.



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7.

Over-watering!



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8.

Under-watering



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9.

Planting carrots in compost that hadn't been sieved, they all came out twisted and quirky looking, small too!

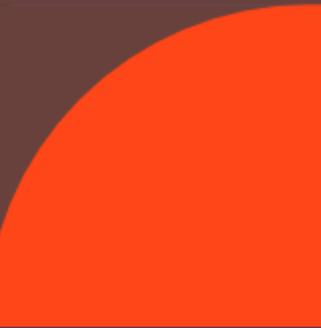


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10.

I have made every mistake possible to make with plants, but I think I've got it figured out now, less water and I do talk to it.



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Belfast Community Plant Library Nonglak McFadden part of the Green Re:Make Group

Here we get to meet some of the team behind the project and find out about their love of plants and why they wanted to get involved

Can you introduce yourself and tell us a little bit about your role in the project?

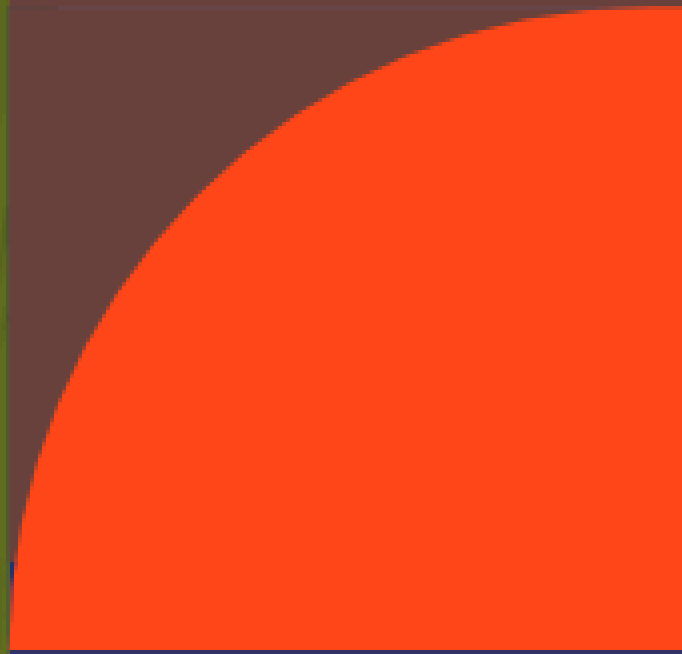
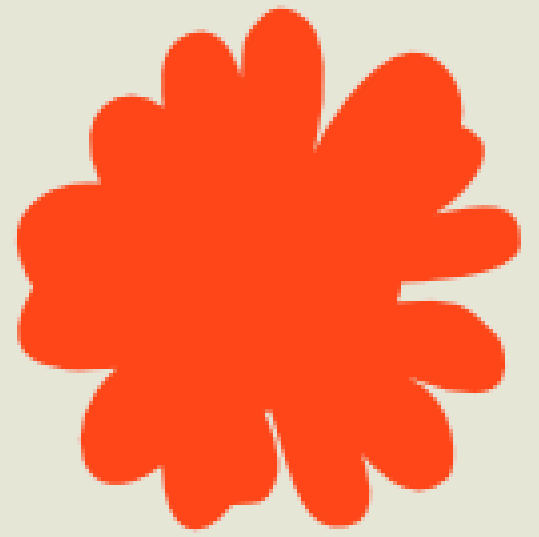
I transform the recycled large tin cans into attractive hanging and free-standing planters using decoupage and hand painting technique for the project. I would like to demonstrate how everyday waste materials can be repurposed into something beautiful and useful.



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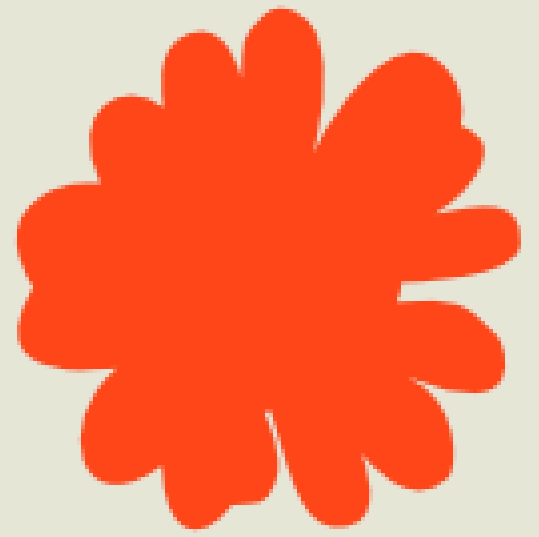
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What's your earliest plant memory?

My earliest plant memory is being fascinated by flowers as a child. I loved seeing the different colours and shapes and watching them grow. I also remember helping my parents and grandparents growing plants, vegetables and herbs, and seeing how a little care, patience and sunshine could turn a tiny seed into something beautiful and useful.



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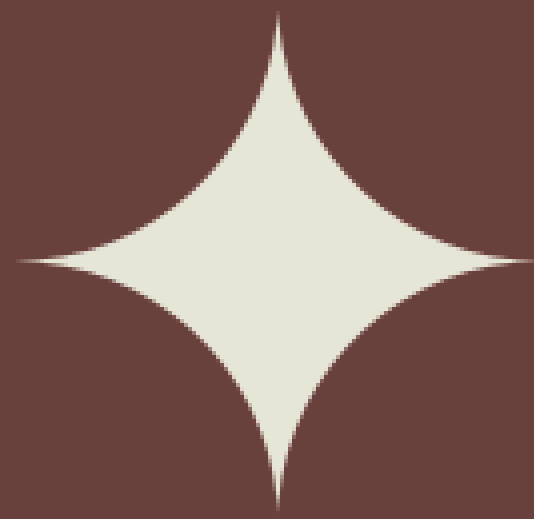
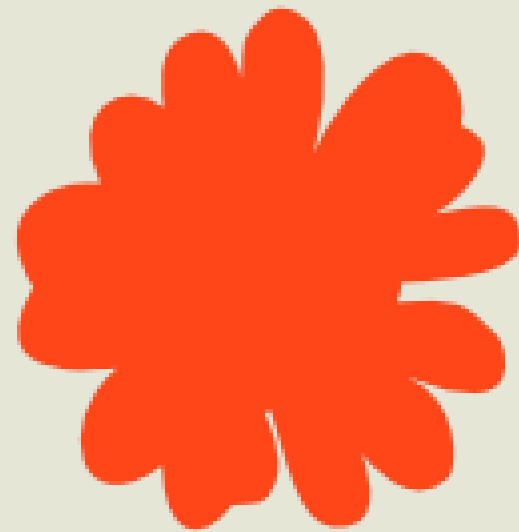
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If you could only have one plant in your life, which one would it be and why?

If I could only have one plant in my life, it would be a cherry blossom. I've always loved them, especially when they are in full bloom and the streets or gardens are covered in flowers, almost like a beautiful carpet. Their delicate blossoms bring such a feeling of joy and hope and are a lovely sign that spring has arrived. I also love that they attract pollinators and help support biodiversity in the garden.



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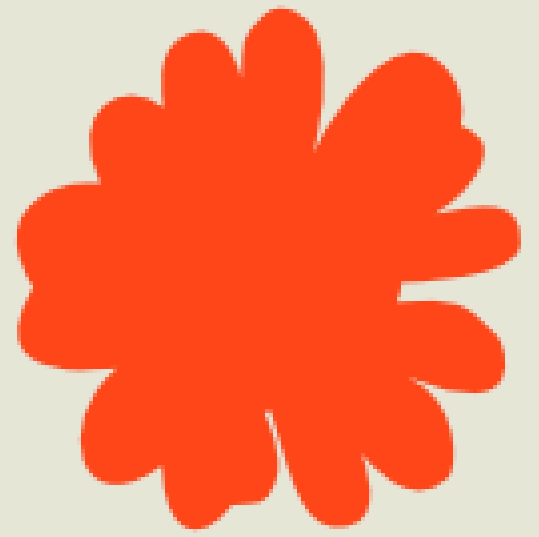
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How does taking care of a living green thing change a person's mood?

Caring for a plant gives me a sense of connection with nature. Watching something grow that I have cared for brings joy, calm and a real sense of achievement. It also gives me a reason to slow down, spend time in nature and appreciate the small changes around us.



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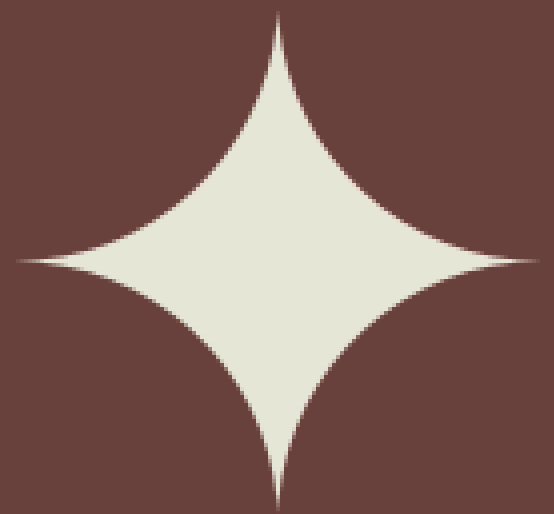
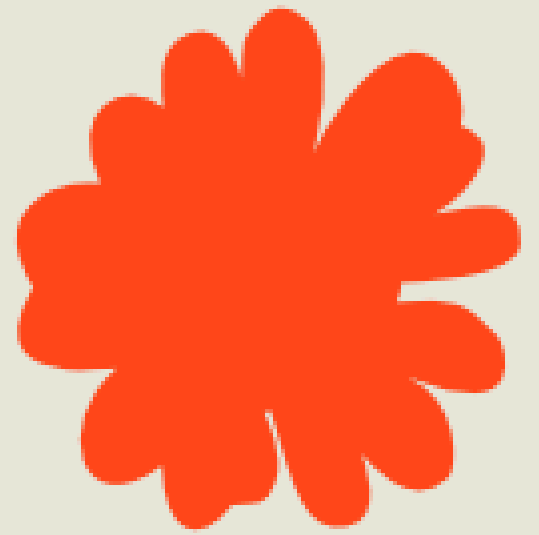
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How can humans work better with plants to fix environmental problems?

I think we need to work with nature rather than try to control it. By growing more plants, protecting trees, creating spaces for pollinators and growing our own food, we can help biodiversity and make our communities greener and healthier.



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Plants have always been a part of my life, from growing flowers, vegetables and herbs to creating spaces where people can enjoy and learn about nature together. I love the sense of connection, creativity and wellbeing that gardening brings. For me, plants are not just something we grow — they bring people together, support wildlife and remind us that with a little care and patience, small things can grow into something beautiful and meaningful.



Nonglak's beautiful garden



Nonglak's beautiful garden

How taking care of plants makes you feel

We asked the people of Belfast how taking care of a living green thing changes their mood



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Natural anti depressants I
call it. I feel alive and happy
when tending to my plants.



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It is uplifting and calming. I
get a tremendous sense of
satisfaction when my
indoor and outdoor plants
thrive.



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Being outdoors is always good.



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Where do I start. It reminds us of the cycle of life the interdependence between plants insect life fungi. The fragrance can evoke memories and the visual spectacle I'm sure triggers endorphins.



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Improves mental health.



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Nourishes your soul.



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Seeing how a small amount of effort can benefit a living thing so much is truly amazing to see. It really only takes a little bit of cutting back, watering or moving a plant from a small pot to a bigger pot to see that your effort has made a big impact.



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It lifts the spirit to see a
plant blossom and flourish.



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Sense of life and beauty is
life affirming.



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I get so much satisfaction in
seeing the plant thriving.



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Slows your breathing. Fills
you mind. Brings
perspective. Takes me from
at the ceiling to calm and
happy within 30 minutes or
less every time.



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Slows your breathing. Fills
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at the ceiling to calm and
happy within 30 minutes or
less every time.



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It is uplifting.



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I personally find it really satisfying weeding and clearing my flower beds! It helps me relax.



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I've found it calms me,
particularly when I feel low
or panicked from climate
anxiety and life. I do find
myself gravitating towards
the garden to prune,
transplant or just to be
around my plants and
veggies as a way of
grounding myself.



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I get so much pleasure from gardening, visiting gardens, talking to other gardeners. I still have a flowering cactus which belonged to my grandmother and which she passed on to me 55years ago.



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Pride, satisfaction, and slow
burning excitement.



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I think caring for anything that's living, like a plant or animal, makes us focus on something other than ourselves. Sometimes, if your mood is low, just being outside, listening to nature, watching things grow, helping that process and taking time to appreciate the results can be powerful.



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Caring for a plant gives me a sense of connection with nature. Watching something grow that I have cared for brings joy, calm and a real sense of achievement. It also gives me a reason to slow down, spend time in nature and appreciate the small changes around us.



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Nurturing and seeing them
thrive gives me so much
satisfaction.



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I wish everyone could have
the kind of joy in their life
that I get from having my
hands the soil.



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Belfast Community Plant Library Team Plant Stories – David Keys Woodworker

Here we get to meet some of the team behind the project and find out about their love of plants and why they wanted to get involved

Can you introduce yourself and tell us a little bit about your role in the project?

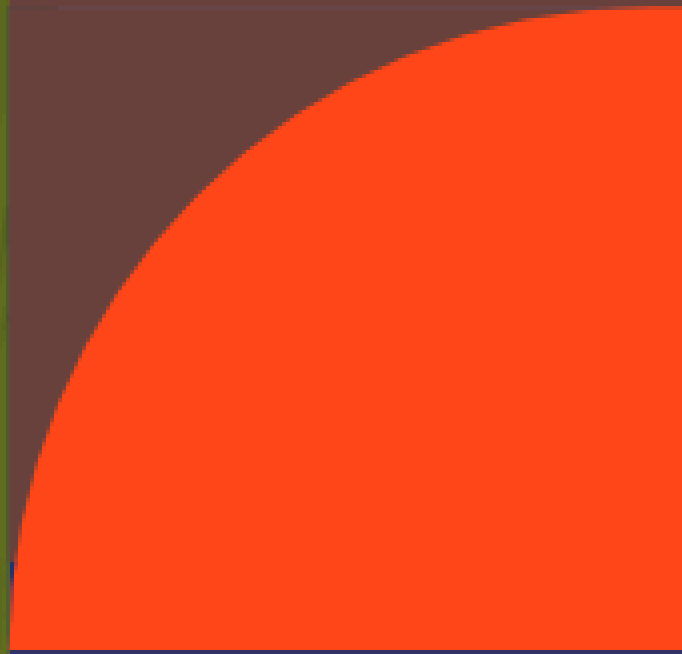
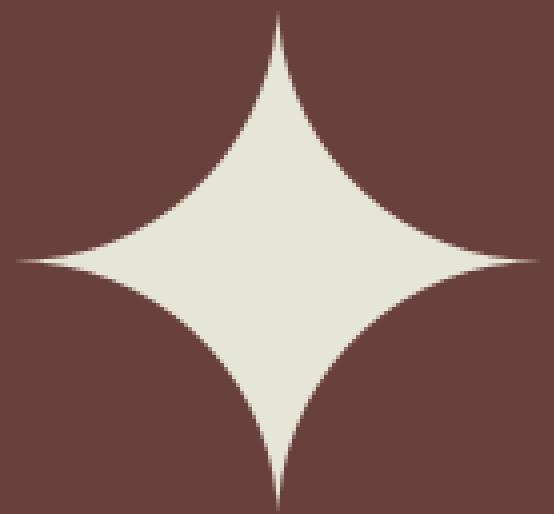
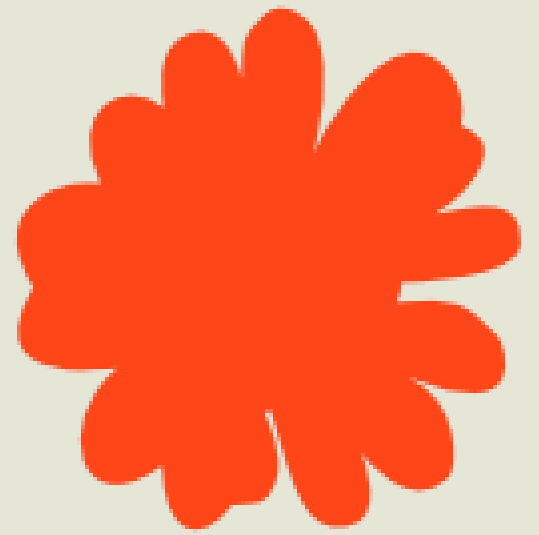
I'm David Keys. I worked on the design and manufacture of the planters for the plant library.



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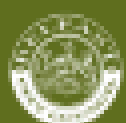
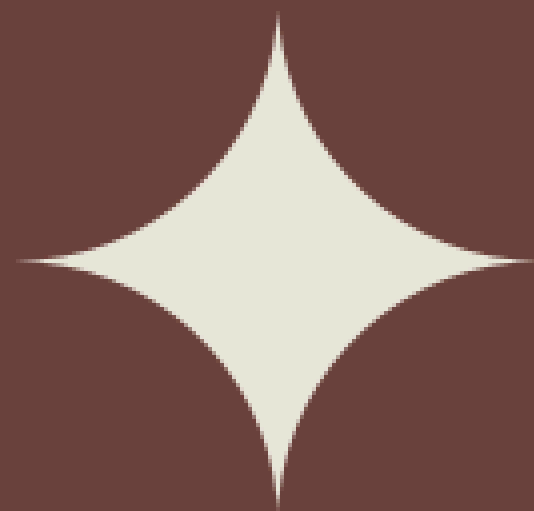
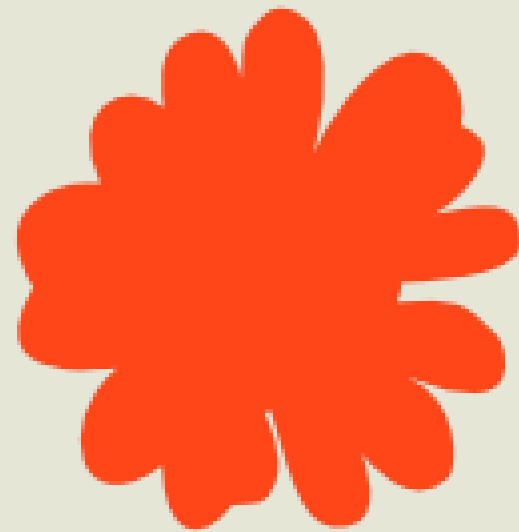
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What's your earliest plant memory?

Tasting the fuchsia flowers from my grandfather's hedge. Also the tropical smell of the whin bushes at Wellbrook Beetling Mill. Not sure which came first.



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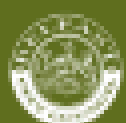
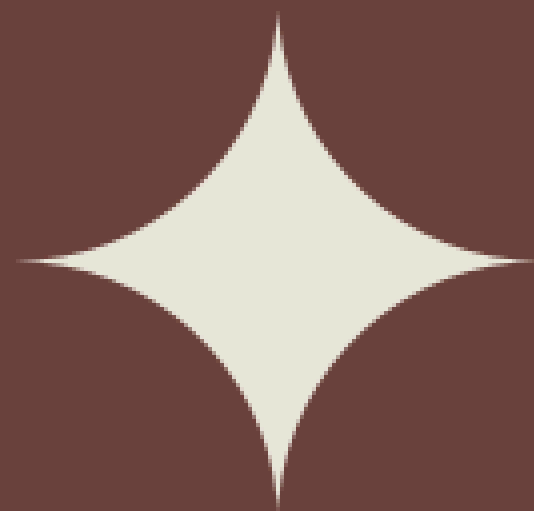
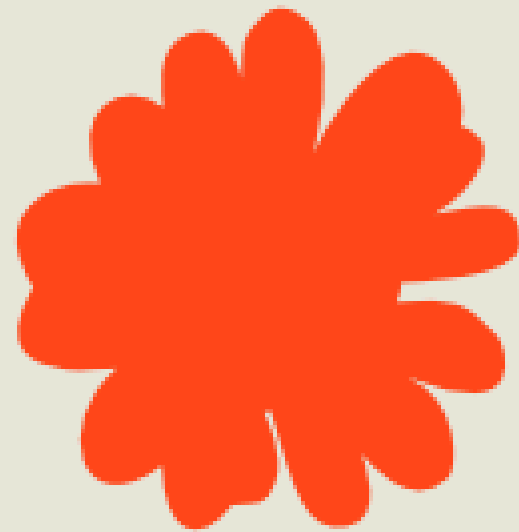
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If you could only
have one plant in
your life, which
one would it be
and why?

As a woodworker, I'd have to say an
oak tree.



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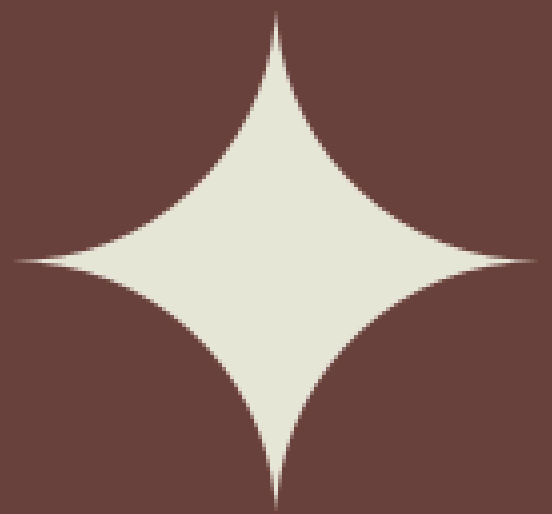
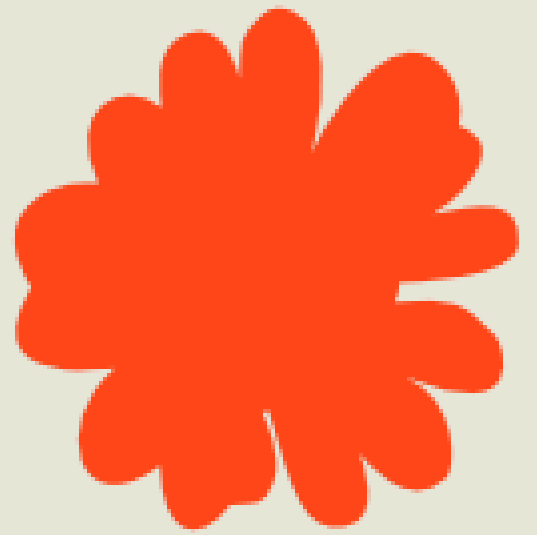
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What is your biggest or silliest plant care mistake?

I once planted some garden peas
and checked the following morning
to see if they had started growing
yet. I'm a bit impatient.



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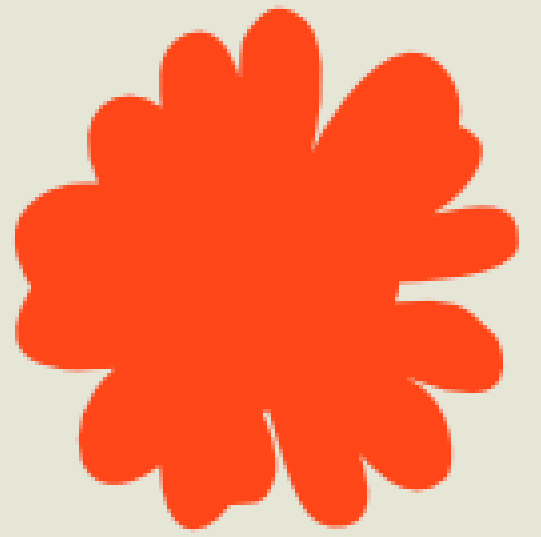
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Which plant do you find the hardest to keep alive?

Living ones. I'm terrible.



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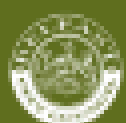
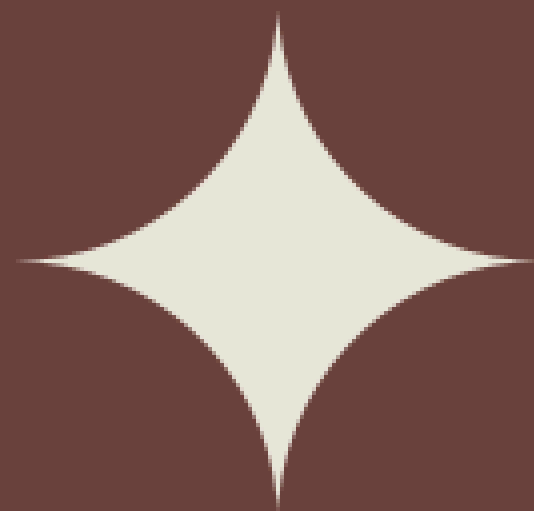
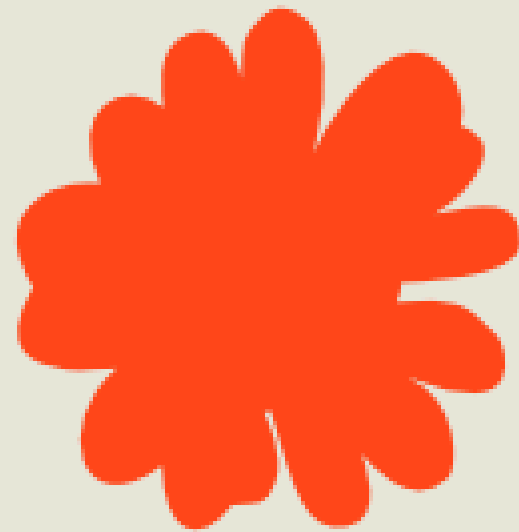
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How does taking care of a living green thing change a person's mood?

Pride, satisfaction, and slow burning excitement.



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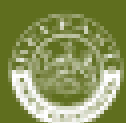
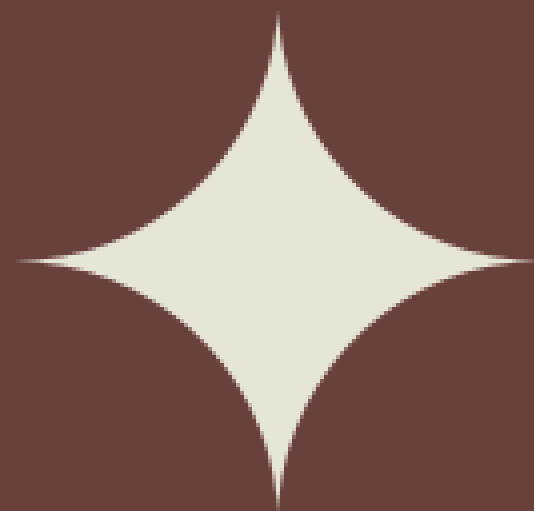
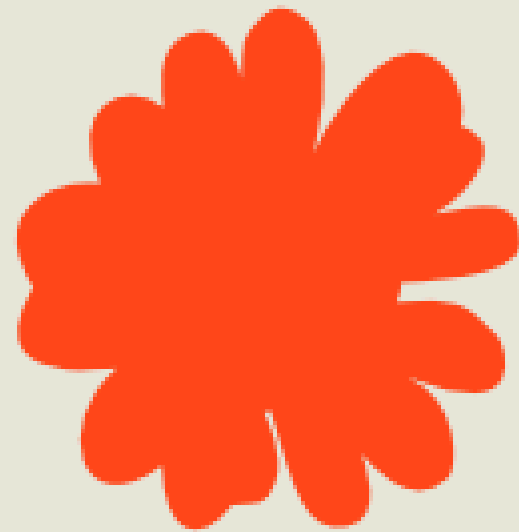
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How can humans work better with plants to fix environmental problems?

Way too many things to list, but
planting more trees will never be a
bad thing.



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Photo: Jenna McGroarty

Coffee Grounds

We've worked with *Friends of the Field* before, who are a community garden, and we give them our coffee grounds and they take them for composting purposes.

It's been amazing to create a kind of circular waste model but also to contribute to a community garden.



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Wellbeing

Planting is extremely beneficial to your mental health and it's just a **really, really** fun activity too.

To be able to feel a sense of achievement, of building something, learning something new and then to see a plant thrive in your home too.



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Rainwater

The reason we have chains on the plant pots here is that the rainwater will drip down and feed the plants. If you open up the water collector, there's a little bucket that you can put a hose into and take it out and use for the plants.

Everyone that's been involved in this project down to the architects have really stuck to their values to design this.



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Houseplants

My house looks a bit like a jungle at the minute, but I genuinely genuinely think it helps me feel a bit better in the morning, and even having something to look after and take ownership of.



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Seasonal

We like to bring in locally sourced ingredients and seasonal ingredients, we like to switch up our specials to accommodate what's in season as well, so for example over the summer we had stewed rhubarb overnight oats, and now we'll do a stewed apple.



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Behaviours

We try to encourage health and behavioural change as well. One way of doing that is that we do not charge any extra for oat milk.

It is our only alternative milk as just by doing our research, we found that it used significantly less water and land use.



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Connection

As a society, we're so far removed from our surroundings and nature, and – in my opinion, anyway – whether consciously or subconsciously, people are just pining to get that connection back.

And then the disconnection from working with your hands is an issue as well.



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Learning

I'm a plant mom now but I was a plant murderer for a while, and I was drowning my plants - absolutely drowning my plants - and just not understanding.

I remember wondering what to do and asking my friend because I kept killing all my plants and she was like, "Ignore them, ignore them. I know you're giving them too much."



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Waste

We've worked with our suppliers and they've been so great as well in helping with making sure that our packaging is either recyclable or compostable.

I've worked in so many hospitality jobs where you are lobbing black bags upon black bags every day and there's absolutely no need.



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Planning

If you just think for a second about what you're doing and where you're getting your things from and how they're coming to you, it makes such a difference.



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Photo: Aoife McGrath



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Photo: Jenna McGroarty



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Photo: David Sloan



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Photo: Keelan Leeper



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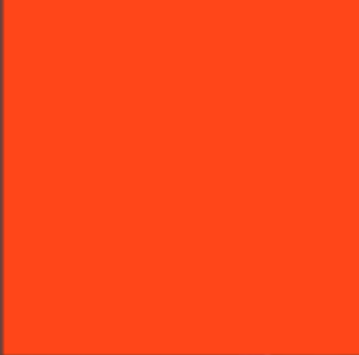


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BELFAST
DESIGN
WEEK

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Hardest plant to keep alive

We asked the people of Belfast which plant they found hardest to keep alive



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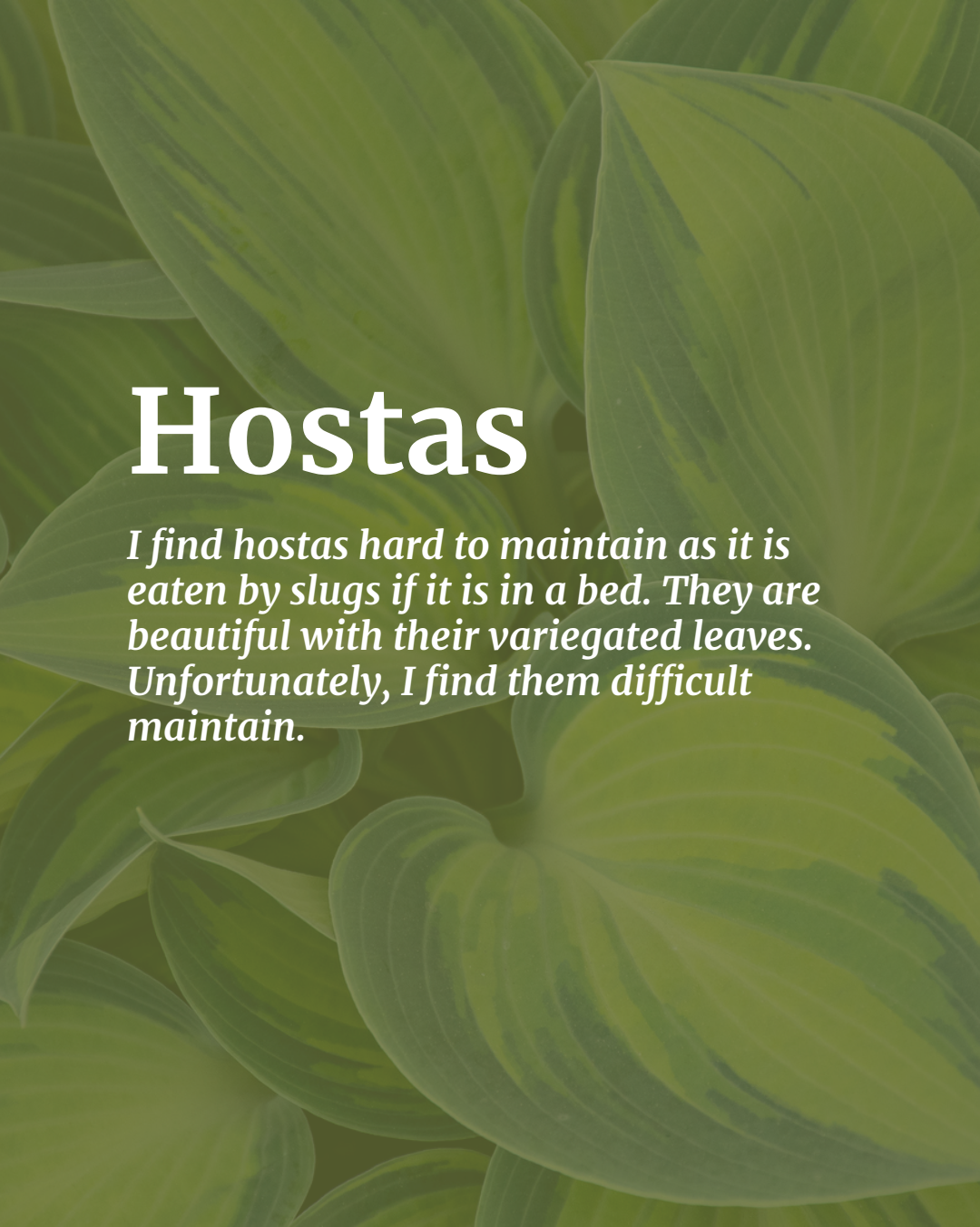
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Cactus

Cactus because it would feel like neglect to just let it be. 😊



Hostas

I find hostas hard to maintain as it is eaten by slugs if it is in a bed. They are beautiful with their variegated leaves. Unfortunately, I find them difficult maintain.

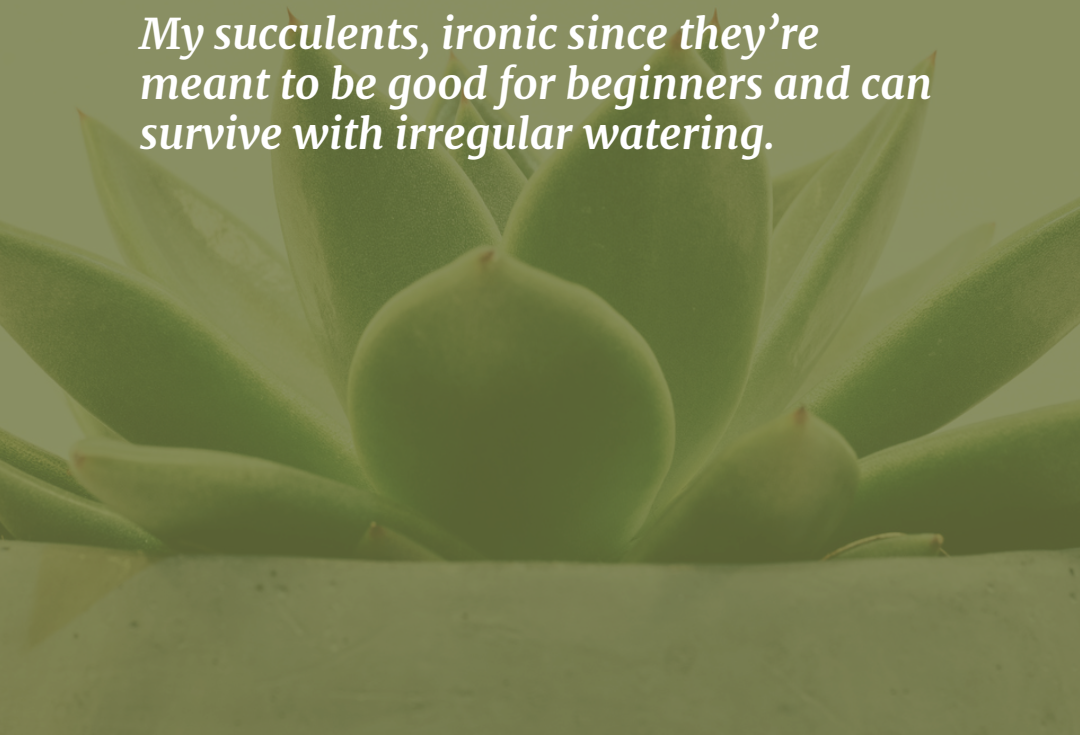


Cruciferous Vegetables

Probably the cruciferous vegetables
outdoors as they inevitably get eaten by
slugs or caterpillars.

Succulents

My succulents, ironic since they're meant to be good for beginners and can survive with irregular watering.



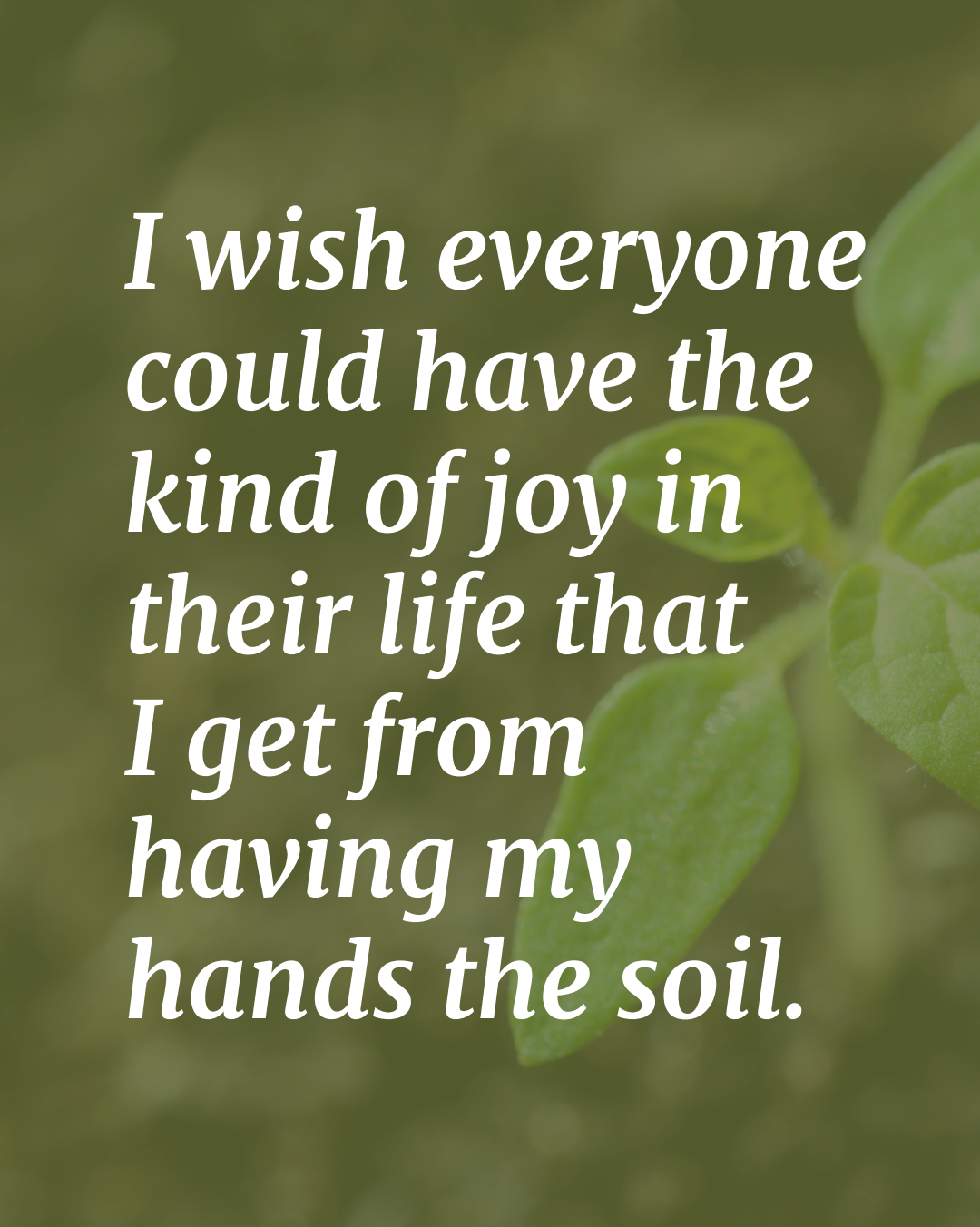


Basil

Especially if you buy the small supermarket pots – far too many seedlings in one pot so the trick is to divide and/or transplant into bigger pots with fresh compost.

*Living
ones.
I'm
terrible.*

A green plant with small, rounded leaves is visible on the right side of the image, partially obscured by the text. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

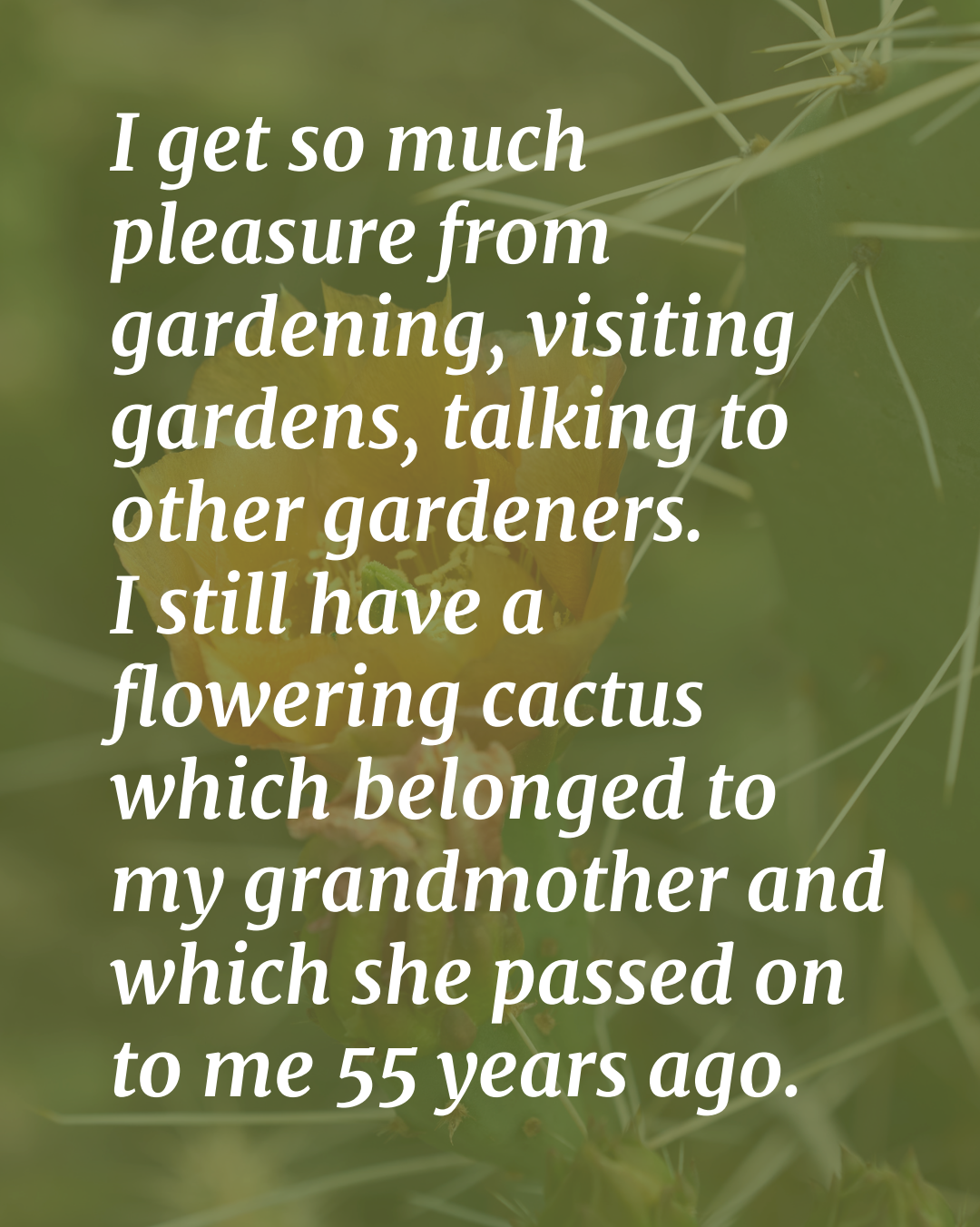
A close-up photograph of a young green plant with several small, rounded leaves. The plant is growing out of a dark, rich soil. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a garden or field setting. The lighting is natural, highlighting the texture of the leaves and the moisture of the soil.

*I wish everyone
could have the
kind of joy in
their life that
I get from
having my
hands the soil.*



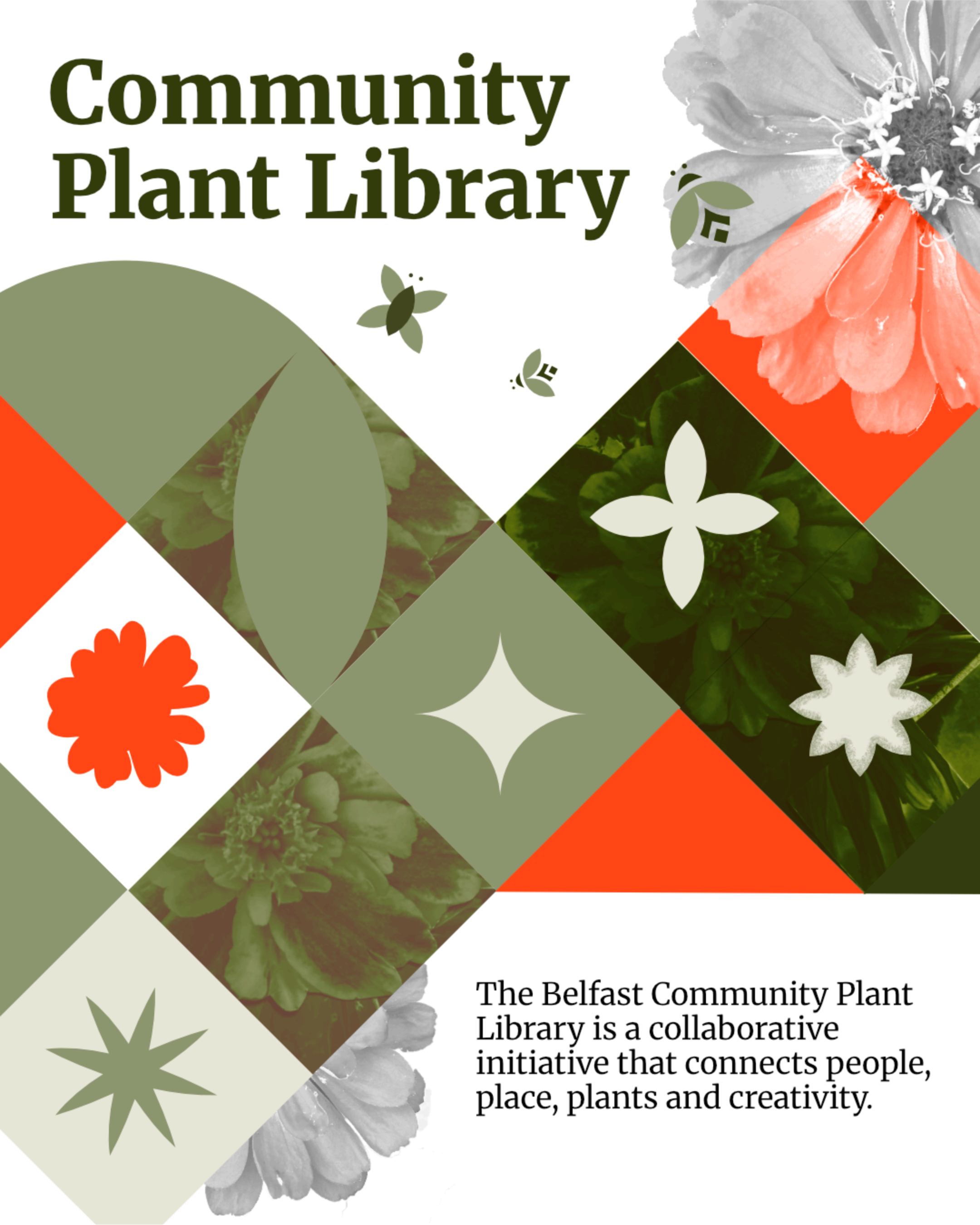
*Growing up
in a green
environment.*

*The changing
seasons, can't
imagine not
having plants
in my life*



*I get so much
pleasure from
gardening, visiting
gardens, talking to
other gardeners.
I still have a
flowering cactus
which belonged to
my grandmother and
which she passed on
to me 55 years ago.*

Community Plant Library



The Belfast Community Plant Library is a collaborative initiative that connects people, place, plants and creativity.

*More
stories
to
come!*



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