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ECEY6005



Sustainability in the Early Years



My Garden

My Garden has lots of sections with different playful learning opportunities for children!



Mother Nature

*An endless sea of trees and wood
Give insects and animals their daily food
The little bee will endlessly strive
To pollinate plants that help keep us alive*

*The trees move gently, to and fro
Shelters all living things that shelter below
Birds and branches nests a delicate weave
The leaves giving life to all that do breathe*

*But what of these living things I have mentioned in ink
How long will they be here, it does make one think
For mans thirst for control of power and greed
For mother nature, he death is mans seed*



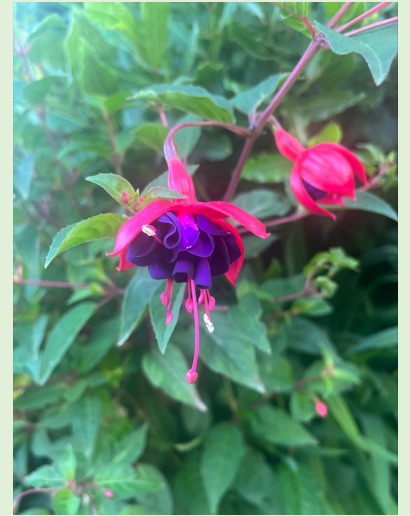
Pink Fuchsia Ballerina Flowers

My favorite flower found in my garden is the Pink Fuchsia Ballerina Flower! The beautiful perennial plant can grow in hanging baskets, containers, or flower beds, like in my garden.

They grow all across the world as they can grow in many weather conditions. Although they love being in the shade, the sun helps them to grow and can be protected from sunlight by the plants that are around them, just don't forget to feed them plenty of water!

They are considered as one of the most spectacular summer plants, resembling that of a 'ballet girl' when they are fully bloomed.

One of the reasons I love this flower so much is that my father planted it when I did ballet as a little girl, and now over 10 years later it grows every summer, they are so beautiful!



Our family dog Hamish loves to lay under our ballerina fuchsia flowers because it is shaded, so he can cool off after playing in the sun!



Flower Bed



This area is our flower bed area that we have made and preserve, its has lots of different plants that support wildlife such as bees!

I enjoy the aesthetics of all the colors and shapes of the flowers in this space, and architecture that my dad created is complimentary to the heights and sizes of all the plants.

The white flower on the right is called a 'Camellia', they grow on one of the trees planted in this area. It is to commemorate my grandmother who passed away as we also scattered her ashes here. It makes us feel close her her and reminds us of all the memories we shared, that's why we give its lots of nurturing!



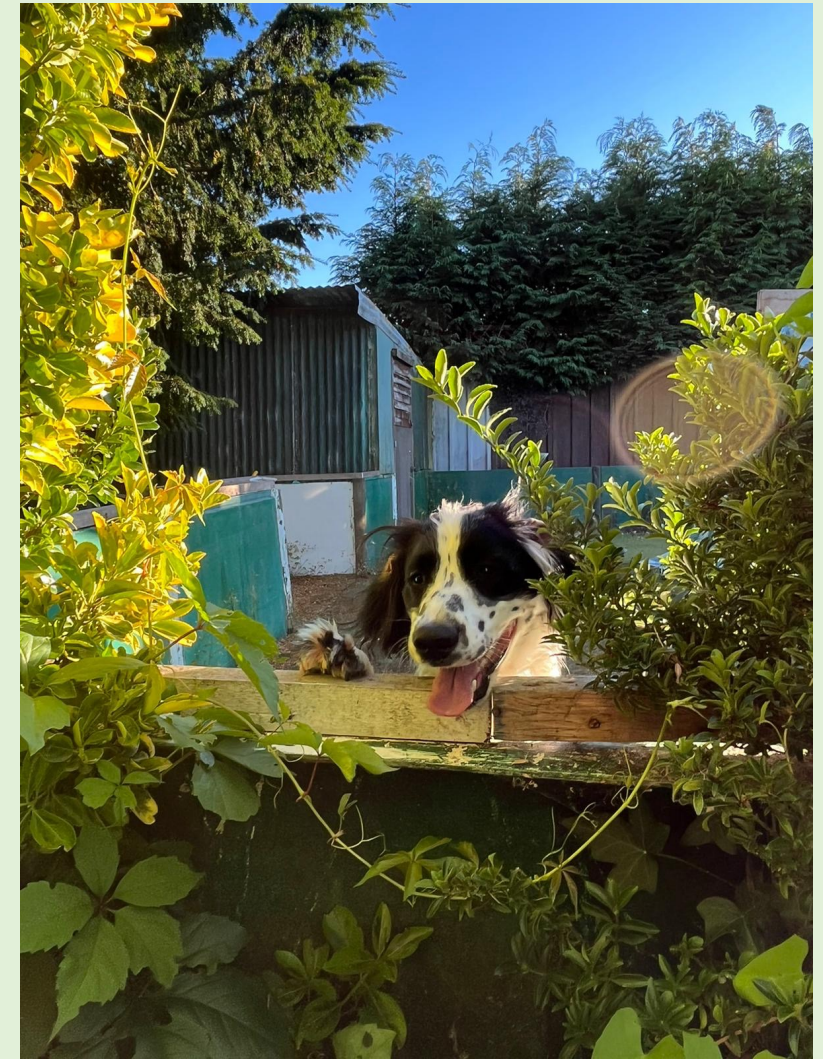


Natural and untouched hedgerow

This is the area
where we have
multiple trees
and plants and
some that grow
different fruits
for us every
year!



We sometimes have wild cats that come into this area of our garden where they hunt for mice and birds! They are used to natural plants and animals so it is safe for them to explore.



Hamish loves to play with the cats but does not go into this area as it is untouched we want to protect him from being hurt by any of the jaggy plants or bitten by any wildlife animals!

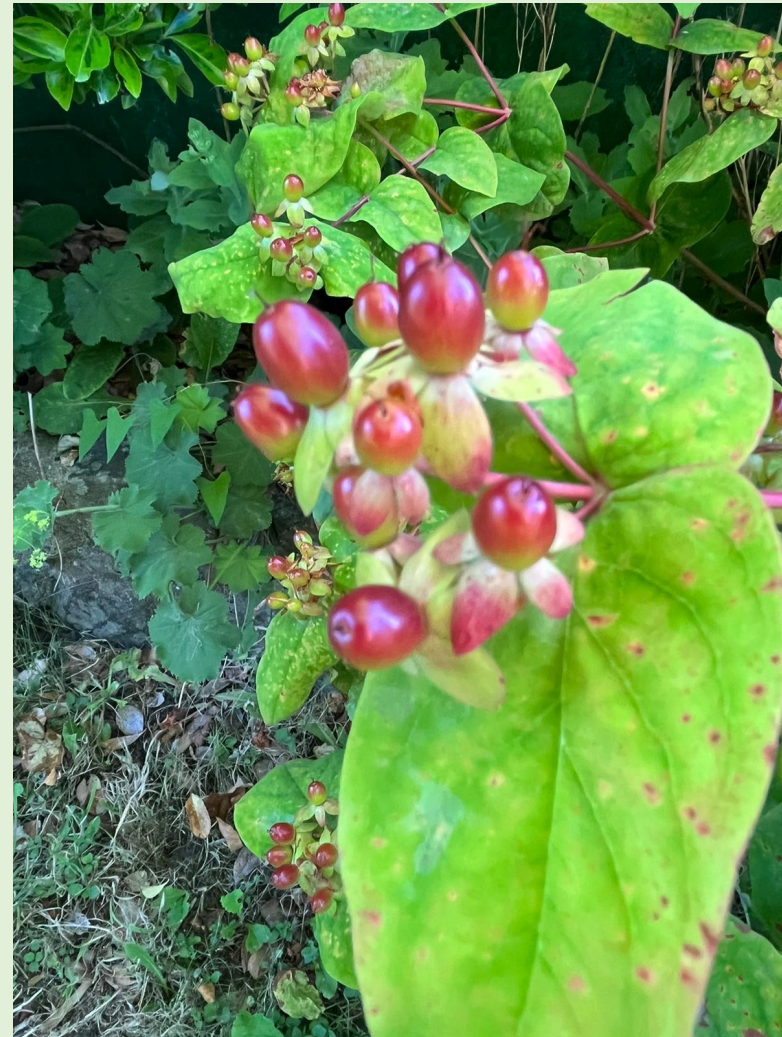
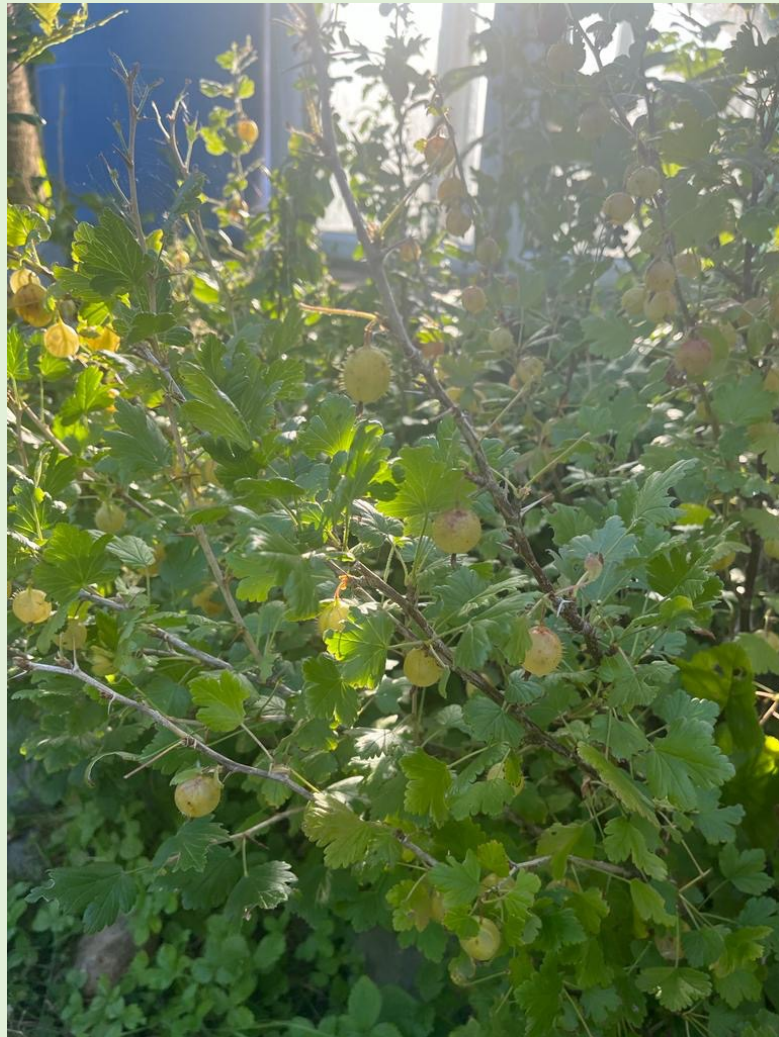
Apple and Plumb Trees



When the fruits are fully grown, we take a basket and pick off the good ones we find. We then wash them in our kitchen and then they are ready to eat!

These fruits are great for snacking on, but sometimes we make other foods with them. We like to make strawberry jam that we put on our toast for breakfast, and sometimes we can make apple pie that we like to share after our dinner!

Green and Red Grapes



Strawberries and other Berry Bushes



Within these berry bushes I discovered evidence of insects and other living things. On carefully examining the berry bushes and surrounding areas I found slime like trails, spider webs and holes in the leaves. For the following days I returned to the area to see if I could find out how these marks were being made and I found lots of interesting discoveries of living things such as caterpillars, slugs and snails, spiders and more.

WHAT ANIMALS LIVE IN BUSHES?



Living Creatures in the bushes

Slugs and Snails



Spiders



Caterpillars



Through researching and exploring I found out that spiders provide a food source for a lot of species such as birds. Not only that, spiders eat a variety of insects such as flies and garden pests, similar to the living creatures that are potentially harmful to our preserved areas!

Similar to spiders, slugs and snails are part of the natural balance of nature, and by removing them we can do a lot of harm. They also provide as a food source for birds, and other insects.



Caterpillars and butterflies are important because they support predators and parasites. After caterpillars metamorphose into butterflies they become important pollinators for many plants.



Conserve

The John Muir award has encouraged me to spend more time exploring the outdoors. There are so many natural and beautiful areas that have many benefits for every living thing on this planet, from the trees and plants that produce the fresh oxygen we breathe and grow fresh fruits for us to eat. To the smallest of insects that provide as food for larger living creatures and pollinate our plants. Then the flowers, that bees receive pollen from to provide an important energy source, so they can create honey that we as humans eat.

While I believe we do conserve our flower bed areas well, we felt there were improvements that could be made in the natural area to make it a safer area for explorations of all living creature including the animals and our family.

There was quite a lot of plastic and metal 'junk' lying around, and where our pond had overgrown it was unsafe for anyone to use the surrounding areas. So we cleaned up the area and tore out the larger weeds around the pond which reduced the hazards and risk of injury.

My family have loved their involvement of my award as it brought us together to do the garden work that we had been longing to do since COVID-19. WE now have more opportunities and space for our nephews to explore and found it such a rewarding experience.

Before



After



Before



After

