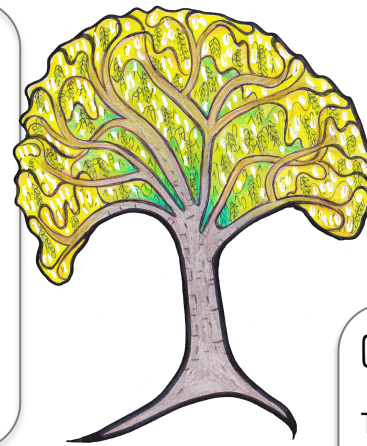




CELEBRATING SPRING - KŌANGA

The weather has been getting warmer and you'll have noticed spring flowers blooming and bare trees beginning to sprout fresh green leaves. You might start to spot more bees and butterflies in the garden as they search for pollen and nectar, and birds busily collecting food for their chicks. We hope you have fun outside completing these challenges to celebrate spring!



Did you know?

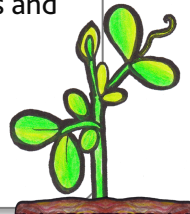
Traditionally the first signs of spring include the bright star Atutahi (Canopus) rising on the horizon in the morning during September and the return of the migratory pipīwharauoa (shining cuckoo) with its distinctive "kui kui" call. Another sign that spring has arrived are the golden yellow flowers of kōwhai trees. Springtime rain showers are known as 'ua kōwhai'.

CHALLENGE 1 – Prepare for planting...

Kōanga, the Māori word for spring, means 'digging time'.

A kō (digging stick) was used in spring to prepare gardens for planting. Seeds that can be planted straight into the soil in spring include beans, peas, carrots, beetroot and silverbeet. You could create some plant labels from recycled materials to mark where you have planted your seeds and perhaps keep a diary to record how your new crops grow.

Visit our Edible Garden for planting inspiration and our website for seasonal tips: www.aucklandbotanicgardens.co.nz/garden-advice/.



Spring Poem

*The wind told the grasses
And the grasses told the trees
The trees told the bushes
And the bushes told the leaves
The bees told the birds
And the birds sang out clear
"Wake up everybody
Spring is finally here!"*

CHALLENGE 3 – Find a flowering kōwhai

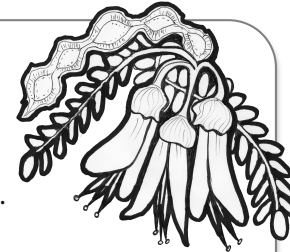
The nectar inside the yellow flowers attract bees, tūi and other native birds.

After the flowers have been pollinated

long seed pods start to form, eventually turning brown.

See if you can find any old seed pods hanging on the tree.

Inside each pod are lots of little yellow seeds - take care if you find them as they are poisonous if swallowed!



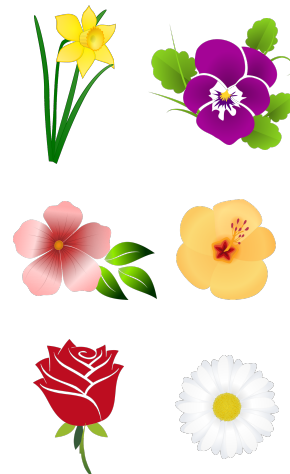
Colour me

CHALLENGE 4 – How many different flowers can you find?

Investigate different petal sizes, shapes, colours and smells.

Tick off the flower pictures if you can find any that match.

Use the back of this page to draw a few of your favourites.

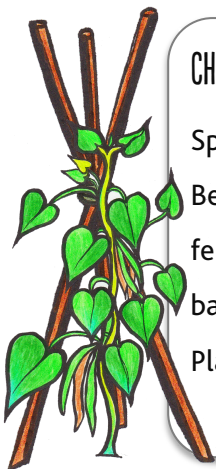


CHALLENGE 2 – Build a frame for beans

Spring is a great time for planting bean seeds in your garden.

Bean seedlings grow quite quickly and will need the support of a fence or a frame as they get bigger. You could tie three long bamboo sticks or harakeke stalks together to make a teepee shape.

Planting your seeds around the edge of the teepee would create a beautiful shaded space to relax and play in during summer!



CHALLENGE 5 – Relax under a cherry tree

Cherry trees are a stunning sight during spring.

Known as 'sakura' in Japanese, they symbolize a time of renewal and fleeting beauty. Visit the trees near our Orchard and Spring Blossom Valley to relax and watch tūi feeding on the colourful blooms.

