WOOD GREEN COMMON - PLANT FOSTERERS PLANT CARE

Project info

This project is part of the larger scheme to improve Wood Green Common. Muf Architecture are commissioned by London Borough of Haringey to design and deliver the improvements through research and engagement with people who use or will come to use the common. Black Rootz are a social enterprise based in Wood Green at the historic Wolves Lane Horticulture Centre. Black Rootz work to teach people how to grow food and have access to nourishing and culturally enriching food every day. Black Rootz will be working with neighbouring community of Wood Green Common to teach participating school pupils and local residents how to care for the plants that will be planted out as part of the new landscape in the common.

London Borough of Haringey will distribute young nursery plants for individuals and school pupils to foster in their homes. Black Rootz will then deliver various workshops and sessions on plant care to the new fosterers. After the period of one year the fosterers will bring their plants to the common for a planting out event in late-Spring which will be hosted by Black Rootz and London Borough of Haringey. The fosterers will also be taught how to propagate (grow plant cuttings) so they can have a plant to keep forever, while also being able to see the plant they fostered growing in the new landscape for years to come.

The aim of fostering young plants is to engage with the surrounding community and create a sense of ownership and responsibility for the newly improved Wood Green Common which will be ready in 2025.

Geraniums



About
The commonly grown geranium (pictured) is originally from southern Africa where over 250 species of the wild plant grow. They're generally easy to care for and flower abundantly in Autumn.
Watering
Geraniums like to stay damp and not dry out completely, but they can cope with being dried out for a few days. Avoid over-watering and store in a well-draining pot to make sure the soil does not become waterlogged. You can easily test the dampness of the soil by putting your finger into the pot up to a few centimetres. If the soil feels dry you can go ahead and water it, if it feels damp wait a couple more days before testing it again.
From October, reduce watering but don't let them dry out completely. Don't worry if your plant looks dead over the winter, it is natural for them to go to sleep, and they will wake up again in Spring when the weather gets warmer, and the days get longer.
Winter
When the weather starts to become colder, in November remove the flowers so the plant can put energy back into its roots.
Geraniums can be kept outdoors in the winter, but they can be susceptible to frost. If you are keeping your geraniums outdoors, make sure to cover them at night to protect them. You can cover them with a cardboard box, an old bed sheet or garden fleece. They can be brought inside for winter. If you're keeping your geranium indoors, do not place it directly in front of a south facing window or too close to a radiator as the plant can get sunburn, heat damage or dry out.
Resume watering to dampness when you see signs of growth and you can put them back outside when the frost has passed. If you take off the flowers that are looking past their best, it will prolong the flowering.

Salvia 'Hot Lips'



About
Salvias are native to Mexico. They are hardy and versatile plants that love the sun and being outdoors.

Watering
Salvias are drought resistant so don't overwater. The best way to determine how often to water your salvia is to check the top half-inch of soil for dampness, if it's dried out, give the plant some water. If it's still damp or moist in the top inch, then no need to water.
Winter
If your Salvia is outside be careful they don't get cold roots in the winter you may need to wrap the pot, with bubble wrap or plant fleece.
Salvias will die down in the winter to preserve their energy and so the tender leaves don't get burnt by the frost. They will start growing again when it gets warmer, and the days get longer. If you take off the flowers that are looking past their best, it will prolong the flowering.

African Daisies



About
These are originally from southern parts of Africa and are popular for their bright colours and easy care. The flowers generally open during the day and close at night.
Watering
African Daisies are drought resistant once established. While yours are still in their pots, ensure they are draining well and are not over-watered. Do not allow them to completely dry out for more than a couple of days. You can test the top inch of the soil for dampness. If it feels dry you can water.
They bloom best in full sun. If you take off the flowers that are looking past their best, it will prolong the flowering.
Winter
African Daisies can be kept outdoors in the winter, but they can be susceptible to frost. If you are keeping them outdoors, be careful they don't get cold roots in the winter. You may need to wrap the pot, with bubble wrap or plant fleece.
They can be brought inside for winter. If you're keeping them indoors, place them in a bright sunny spot but not too close to a radiator.