

Growing Orchard Communities

COMMUNITY ORCHARD TOOLKIT



Making paper blossom.

A simple spring activity for all ages by Sara Hurley

Paper blossom is very pretty and easy to make. They can be used as decorations in the orchard (on those perfect warm, dry spring days!) as well for people to take home.

You will need:

Tissue paper circles, various sizes.

Thin sticks between 15-25 cm length - and/or pipe cleaners or dead branches

Masking tape

Preparation

1. Cut out lots of circles of various sizes and colours and tissue paper.

✿ Different sizes from saucer size to small glass size and in between.

✿ Fold the tissue paper into lots of layers and cut them out all at once.

✿ Use edging scissors, pinking shears for an interesting edge.

✿ You can buy inexpensive packs of tissue with a variety colours.

2. The sticks used can be: twigs found in the orchard, thin end of withies, pipe cleaners. You can buy kebab skewers and nip off the pointy end with secateurs. To make a blossom branch collect dead branches and hang over a door, gateway or pop in a jug.

3. If you are doing this with a group - prepare lots of short tabs of masking tape (4-5cms) on a log or table edge to help them at the sticking stage.



Making the blossom flowers

1. Choose a minimum of 3, maximum of 10, paper circles, large, medium and small.

2. Lay them on top of each other so they look like a target. Play with size and colour.

The Growing Orchard Communities project aims to support local people to manage healthy orchards for the whole community to enjoy. It is run by Orchard Link, supported by the South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. © Orchard Link www.orchardlink.org.uk




Growing Orchard Communities

COMMUNITY ORCHARD TOOLKIT



3. Take a stick. Holding the paper firmly (tissue paper is fairly strong) poke a stick size hole through all the sheets. This is the trickiest moment of just enough pressure but not too much.
4. Make sure the paper is through enough without too much stick poking out of the top.
5. With a firm grip of the paper turn the stick upside down. (If you don't the paper doesn't stick as well.) Don't worry about what the flower will look like at this stage.
6. Pinch the paper to the end of the stick to make sure paper will attach to the stick with the masking tape.
7. Take the masking tape and wrap around base of paper to attach it to the stick. (The masking tape will mould to shape, so press it well around the base.)
8. Turn stick back up the right way, flower may look a bit sorry at this stage.
11. The magic moment! Take time unfurling the petals, one layer at a time, and arranging them the way you like.

Extra Ideas

-  Snip the petals once you've made the flower to add texture and style.
-  Make the flowers with pipe cleaners instead of sticks. Wrap several flowers around a dead branch to make it come to life - just like Spring!
-  Add pollinators in the middle. Use paper or beads to make stamen.

