

WILD YOUR SPACE

Wild your school
Rewild your children

Living Willow Structures

Living willow structures are enjoying an upsurge in popularity and Bright Green Nature are happy to support this trend! It's quite rare to have an opportunity to build a fun and interesting playground feature which is 100% sustainable and will increase biodiversity – whilst also promoting outdoor learning and activities.



The willow is an important native plant to Scotland and as such is valuable to wildlife in our area. Many species of moth caterpillars feed on the leaves, and the catkins are a useful early source of nectar for bees and other invertebrates.

Structures, such as those shown above, are a fantastic feature in any school playground, and the children will love helping with both the planting, and the creative maintenance as it grows and takes shape – with their ongoing involvement of course. And, with a growth of up to 2 meters per year, they will need definitely some regular maintenance – but this will feel much more like fun than work.

Tunnels, domes or fedges (a cross between a fence and a hedge) can be grown in most sunny spots and often the only limit is your own imagination. And with Willows being one of the easiest trees (or shrubs) to grow, with a great success rate – **what's not to love!**

www.brightgreennature.org/wildyourspace

Everything you need to know about Living Willow Structures can be found in *How to Make Living Willow Structures, Complete Guide* by Musgrove Willows musgrovewillows.co.uk/blog/everything-you-need-to-know-about-building-living-willow-structures/

But remember, when it comes to purchasing your own willow rods for planting, please be sure to only source native species from a local supplier. As always, **Bright Green Nature** can help and advise regarding suppliers and planting projects.

Funding

Also, don't forget our Wild Your Space Microgrant, which is unique to the Scottish Borders and which has already helped numerous local schools to make their playgrounds more wildlife (and child) friendly.

So, if you need some funding to help you to turn your vision into reality, have a look on the Bright Green Nature website

www.brightgreenature.org/microgrant



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