Plant Sales During Covid-19

A plant sale is often an integral part of many of our openings. Here is some helpful advice to make your Plant Sale as successful as possible, with Covid in mind.

Planning:

- Decide whether to have one large plant sale or encourage each garden to have a small plant stall.
- It can be helpful to form a small group of volunteers to take responsibility for a large plant sale, liaising with individual gardens and coordinating the sale.
- Encourage all your local gardeners, even those who may not be opening their garden, to donate a few extra plants for the plant sale.
- Do you have a local independent nursery that might like to support your opening by donating some plants, or by attending and giving you a percentage of their sales?
- Ask your local volunteers if they can supply you with plants for sale.
- Remember, there is new guidance about Plant Passports in relation to plant sales – read more here: https://scotlandsgardens.org/plant-passports-and-plant-sales/

Preparation:

- **Publicity:**
- Remember to include the fact that you will have plants for sale on your poster and in any publicity. This will remind people to bring money and bags/boxes.
- There are posters available for you to download and display, reminding people of Covid guidelines and how to be a responsible visitor

- **Display & Positioning**:
- If you are expecting many plants to be donated, it is a good idea to gather them together the day before the sale for pricing and grouping together. If this isn't possible, make sure you allow plenty of time on the day – this process always takes longer than you think!
- consider grouping plants in different ways such as annuals, perennials, etc.
- Provide some bags or boxes at the start (people often arrive without anything to transport plants) and possibly a wheelbarrow at the end for taking plants to cars. A waterproof marker pen is ideal to name bags for later collection.
- You may need trestle tables for small plants and plenty of floor space for larger plants.
- Try to arrange the plants roughly in order of size – smallest ones at the start, largest ones at the end, so that customers carry the largest ones the shortest distance.
- If you are holding small plant sales in each garden, have the sale point near the exit.
- Some sort of gazebo can be very helpful for helpers on the day to sit, take payments, store plants, etc. especially if it is raining!
- Please aim to hold your sale outside

- **Keep Your Distance:**
- Spread out into as wide an area as possible and arrange a one-way system for purchasers.
- Mark out points for socially distanced queuing.

- **Pricing:**
- Instead of pricing individual plants, especially smaller ones, you could use coloured stickers or plant markers and create a sign that shows the colour and how much that plant is, e.g. Yellow = £5.00

- **Helpers:**
- ensure that you have knowledgeable helpers at the sale to offer advice to buyers.
- You may need extra helpers for crowd control and to help with payments, loading plants, etc

- **Payment & Handling Cash:**
- Think in advance about how you will take payments, considering reducing handling cash as much as possible. Options may be: cashless payment systems (speak to your District Organiser to see if this is an option in your area) or donations into a bucket, ideally exact change only.
- If you are handling cash, make sure you have a cash bucket (your District Organiser should be able to supply one)
- Make sure you have a float available with plenty of notes/coins available.
- When your event has finished, leave any cash gathered in the unopened bucket in a secure place for at least 72 hours before processing.

- If you do have to handle cash, make sure you wash or sanitise your hands thoroughly afterwards.

- Make hand sanitiser available and volunteers may feel more comfortable wearing masks as they deal with the general public.

- Be safe and enjoy the day!

Always remember to check the latest information and advice from Scottish Government - https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/

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