

Little Garden 2 Website FAQs

OVERVIEW

Q: What is the Little Garden promotion?

Little Garden is back by popular demand! The Little Garden 2 collectible campaign rewards loyal Xtra Savings members with a special seedling kit for every R200 spent at Checkers and Checkers Hyper supermarkets.

The millions of Little Garden 2 seedling kits were locally produced, creating employment for more than 150 people, mostly women, who were provided with specialised training in order to get this intricate job done.

The Little Garden campaign will run from Monday 24 August until stocks last. There are 24 different bee-friendly seedlings to collect; 6 herbs, 8 flowers and 10 vegetables.

Q: Why is the promotion only for Xtra Savings members?

Little Garden is an added benefit offered to our loyal Xtra Savings members, and an incentive for those customers who have not yet signed up.

Q: Do Sixty60 customers qualify for Little Garden 2?

Yes, Sixty60 customers will receive two (2) Little Garden seedling kits while stocks last.

Q: Do Sixty60 Boxed customers qualify for Little Garden 2?

No, Sixty60 Boxed customers do not qualify for Little Garden seedling kits.

Q: Can I collect Little Garden seedling kits on all product categories?

There are some categories which are excluded from the Little Garden 2 promotion. No purchases made at Medirite, Checkers LiquorShop and Money Market will qualify, including Checkers gift cards and top-ups, money transfers, prescription pharmaceutical goods, third-party services and payments.

GENERAL

Q: What are the 24 different seedling kits to collect?

The Little Garden 2 seedling kits were locally produced and contain 24 different bee-friendly seedlings; including 6 herbs, 8 flowers and 10 vegetables. They are all suited to the South African environment and climate.

The 24 different seedlings are:

Herbs:

- Basil (*Ocimum Basilicum*)
- Coriander (*Coriandrum Sativum*)
- Fennel (*Foeniculum Vulgare*)
- Rocket (*Eruca Sativa*)
- Parsley (*Petroselinum Crispum*)
- Korean Mint (*Agastache Rugosa*)

Vegetables:

- Radish (*Rhaphanus Sativus*)
- Beetroot (*Beta Vulgaris*)
- Kale (*Brassica Oleracea* var. *Acephala*)
- Marog (*Amaranthus Marog* spp.)
- Pak Choi (*Brassica Rapa Chinensis*)
- Swiss Chard (*Beta Vulgaris*)
- Mixed Lettuce (*Lactuca Sativa*)
- Broccoli (*Brassica Oleracea*)
- Tomato (*Solanum Lycopersicum*)
- Carrot (*Daucus Carota*)

Flowers:

- Red Clover (*Trifolium Pratense*)
- Borage (*Borago Officinalis*)
- African Daisy (*Dimorphothecea Sinuata*)
- Marigold (*Tagetes Patula*)
- Sunflower (*Helianthus*)
- Cosmos (*Cosmos Bipinnatus*)
- Cornflower (*Centaurea Cyanus*)
- Phlox (*Phlox Drummondii Grandiflora*)

Q: What are “bee-friendly” seedlings?

Bee-friendly seedlings are plants that produce flowers rich in pollen and/or nectar so as to attract bees and other important pollinators such as butterflies.

Q: Why did you decide to focus on bee-friendly seedlings?

As pollinators, bees play an important role in the complex, interconnected ecosystem that allows diverse species to coexist and are vital in supporting the growth of trees, flowers and other plants, which serve as food and shelter for creatures large and small.

Planting a bee-friendly garden not only leads to a healthy and vibrant garden, but also ensures that bees are able to continue playing their critical role in our ecosystem.

Q: Can I choose which Little Garden seedling kit I receive?

Unfortunately not, the seedling kits are handed out at random and customers are unable to choose which one(s) they receive. Should you have doubles, perhaps swap them with a family member or friend who is also collecting them.

Q: What age are the Little Garden seedling kits suitable for?

The seedling kits are suitable for persons aged 3 years and older. They are not suitable for children under the age of 3 as the seedling kits contain small parts that could pose a choking hazard – please refer to the safety warnings on the product packaging. Adult supervision is required for all children, to prevent accidents, to share in the learning and to ensure that the seeds are planted and cared for properly, giving them a better chance of sprouting into plants.

Q: What will children learn?

The Little Garden 2 seedling kits enable both adults and children to share in the experience of growing their own plants. This should help children learn about the power of nature, how plants grow, the importance of bees and the role they play, where food comes from and so much more.

Q: Are there any prizes up for grabs with Little Garden 2?

Yes! You get one (1) entry into the competition when you buy any participating brand. Xtra Savings members get automatic double entries into the draw to stand a chance of winning their share of R100 000 in family entertainment prizes (including Xbox Series X, JBL soundbar, Oculus VR headset, iPhone 11, trampolines and more).

Q: How much does Little Garden cost?

Checkers and Checkers Hyper customers will be rewarded with a free Little Garden seedling for every R200 spent when they swipe their Xtra Savings card in-store.

Q: I went to my nearest store and couldn't find some of the merchandise?

The merchandise is only available while stocks last, but there has been a delay in some merchandise reaching our stores due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

SUSTAINABILITY

Q: With the previous Little Garden campaign in 2018, Checkers pledged to plant a food garden in every community that it serves. How far are you from reaching that goal?

To date, the Shoprite Group has partnered with more than 100 community gardens as well as 494 home gardens, benefitting more than 28 000 people.

Q: What are the Little Garden seedling kits made of? Are they environmentally friendly?

The Little Garden 2 seedling kits were locally produced and contain herbs, vegetables and flowers which are suited to the South African environment and climate. Little Garden creates zero waste – all materials are either compostable or recyclable.

Each Little Garden 2 seedling kit contains a compostable pot, a soil pod, seed tape and pop-out name tag. The materials are all either compostable or recyclable: the compostable pots are made from paper pulp, the seed tape is made from paper which is compostable, the soil pods are made of coconut husk and the collector's tray and packaging are recyclable.

Q: Where were the seeds sourced from?

The seedling kits were locally sourced and produced and contain herbs, vegetables and flowers which are suited to the South African environment and climate.

Q: What is the purpose of the Bee Hotel?

The Bee Hotel accommodates solitary bees that are looking for a safe place to nest. Unlike honey bees, solitary bees do not live together in a beehive with a queen – they nest alone in small holes in trees, soil or stones. Solitary bees are harmless and non-aggressive bees that are commonly found in gardens and important for the pollination of flowers and plants. By installing a bee hotel in your garden, it will attract bees and give them a safe space to nest, thereby supporting the growth of the bee population as well as the pollination of trees and flowers.

GROWING

Q: What is in each Little Garden seedling kit?

Each Little Garden 2 seedling kit includes:

- Seed tape – a compostable paper embedded with a small number of seeds from the same plant type.
- Pop-out seed name tag – a coloured cardboard label that identifies what's growing in each pot.
- Compostable pot – a small pot to put your soil and seeds into.
- Soil pod – a brown dehydrated growing medium pressed into a compact round shape.

Q: How does one get started? I've got my first seedling kit, now what?

There are three easy steps:

1. Put the soil pod on a saucer and pour 40ml of water over it.
2. Mix the water into the soil with your hands to make a wet mixture and watch the soil expand.
3. Place your seed tape vertically in the pot without taking the seeds out of the paper and cover with soil up to the coloured strip.

Your Little Garden seedling is now ready to start growing!

Instructions are included and can be found on the inside of each Little Garden 2 seedling kit's cardboard wrapper.

Q: Can I plant the seeds directly in the soil outside?

For the best results it is recommended that you plant the seed tape in the little pot first until they germinate and sprout.

Q: Why are my seedlings not sprouting?

With the right care and attention, most seeds should sprout within 1 – 2 weeks of being planted, though some may take longer. Sprouting time information can be found on the inside of each Little Garden 2 seedling kit's cardboard wrapper. However, some seeds may not germinate and if you're still not seeing a seedling, it could be because:

- The soil hasn't been wet enough OR has been too wet
- The seeds weren't covered with enough soil
- The soil was packed too tightly
- The pots were placed somewhere too windy, too cold or too hot.

Q: How long will my Little Garden seeds last for without planting?

Most of the seedling kits will last for at least 12 months depending on how they are stored – it is always best to store them in cool, dark and dry storage conditions.

Q: The leaves of my plant are turning yellow, what should I do?

This could be caused by various things. You might be over or under watering, or your plant might be getting too much or not enough light. Please refer to the seedling kit's cardboard wrapper for instructions.

Q: Why are the roots of some plants outgrowing the pot?

If the roots are outgrowing the pot, it's time to repot them. Care instructions can be found on the inside of the Little Garden seedling cardboard wrapper.

Q: Can I leave the plants in the small pots when I repot them?

Yes, you don't need to remove the plant from the pot. The pot is compostable, so the seedling roots easily grow through the sides and bottom of the pot.

Q: I think insects are eating my plant, what should I do?

You could use a small amount of natural pesticide to protect your plants. Pesticides should only be applied by adults. Remember to read the instructions carefully.

Q: Does it matter what sort of pot I use to repot the seedling?

No, it doesn't matter. As long as the pot has drainage holes.

Q: Why are my pots and plants mouldy?

The mould is caused by the moisture in the air and is not harmful. You can simply wipe it away with a tissue.

Q: Where do I put the Little Garden seedling pot once I've planted the seeds?

Ideally in the collector's case which is specifically made for the seed pots and available from Checkers and Checkers Hyper for R39.99 (while stocks last).

Once a little plant appears, a seed has germinated. After germination, you can find care instructions on the inside of the Little Garden seedling cardboard wrapper.

Q: How will I know when my plants are ready to harvest?

The pop-out seed name tag will have an estimated harvest time. However, there are lots of factors that can influence how quickly a plant reaches maturity.

