

Left Spaces check list

Left spaces are areas set aside to let native species of living things thrive. Below is a checklist to help plan your left space.

☐ Choose your space

☐ Private or public space?

If the space doesn't belong to you, find out who owns the land.

☐ Obtain permission

If the space is not yours, you may need to ask and obtain the permission to use the chosen area as your left space. Keep in mind that this may take a bit of time, especially if you've chosen a publicly owned space

Tip: On www.letitgrow.eu you can find a sample letter for a written request.

☐ Create your working group

Gather friends, family, neighbours to help you as working in a group is easier (and funnier too). Take pictures and share your progress on social media.

Tip: Social media such as Facebook or Instagram are good tools to get people involved and keep them posted. If you are new to this, check out how to create a Facebook group here:

<https://www.facebook.com/help/167970719931213>

☐ Clear your space from non-native plants

Prepare the ground and remove invasive species from your space. Seek advice about identification and removal of invasive species here: <http://www.europe-aliens.org/default.do>

☐ Plan your space

It's better if you create a basic plan for your left space. For example, you can decide whether to plant native plants or wait for them to grow spontaneously.

Tip: Your local botanic garden could offer guidance. Find your closest institution here:

<http://www.letitgrow.eu>

☐ Enrich your space

You can enrich your space in many different ways to help native species thrive there.

Tip: On www.letitgrow.eu you can find your nearest Let It Grow participant who can provide you with ideas or run events where you can learn how to build enrichment materials for your space

☐ Manage your space

Invasive species may come back visiting your space again and again, keeping them out might not be that simple. Make sure you are managing your space correctly: <http://www.europe-aliens.org/default.do>

☐ Let It Grow!



Left Spaces action plan

When	Task	Explanation	Who
Week 1	Choosing your space	It could be a window box, a balcony, a garden (private spaces); a corner of your local park or a roundabout at the edge of town (public spaces).	
	Obtain permission and plan your space	It is important to find out who own the space, obtain permission. Start planning your space: you can plant or wait for native plants to grow spontaneously in your Left space.	
	Set up your group	Facebook or other social media can help get people involved and split tasks between each other.	
Week 3	Share your progress	Taking pictures of the project will help you keep track of process and help engage people	
	Remove non-native plants	Make sure you correctly identify non-native (or invasive) plants and remove them from your space to help natives' thriving.	
Week 4	Build enrichment materials	Enrich your left space by installing bird feeders or insect homes for example. Do-it-yourself or learn more in your local Let it Grow institution.	
Weeks following	Manage garden	Try to keep invasive species out to let local biodiversity flourish in your Left space. Look for guidance online or in your local Let it Grow institution.	

