

Badgery Science Fun 4

Bluebells grow in our woodlands. They grow from bulbs. (No, not that sort of bulb! Flower bulbs!)



Badgers like to take the fresh green leaves of the bluebell plants down into their setts in the spring. They use them for bedding. (Badgers are very clean, and often air and change their bedding.) Badgers usually use dry grasses, etc., for their bedding. Look at the photo of the badger bringing bedding to the sett. They hold it in their front legs and walk backwards into the tunnels.



Can you think why the badgers would want to take bluebell leaves into the sleeping chambers?

Bluebells and some other plants that grow in woodland need to get a good start to their lifecycle in spring, before the leaves sprout on the trees and blot out the daylight. (All green plants need sunlight to make food.)

The bulb is full of food that allows the plant to have a good start in spring, and grow very quickly, even when the sunlight is poor.

As young plants grow, either from bulbs or seeds, they use up the food. Then they need to make food for themselves, using **CLRPYLHOOHLH** and **SNIHULGT**

Plants make food in the



The anchor the plant into the ground.



The roots take up **RETAW** and **TENTUNRI** to help the plant grow.

Green vegetation rots quickly. Rotting leaves give off heat. A badger's electric blanket! Clever, eh?