



RECYCLED PLANTERS

Make clear planters to watch your plants sprout and grow.

Materials

- Clear plastic bottle
- Soil
- Seeds
- Scissors
- Water

Photo credit:
insideurbangreen.org



Procedure

- Cut your bottle in half from side to side. Thoroughly wash both halves.
- Poke four holes in the very bottom of the bottle with the scissors so the soil can drain.
- Fill the top half of the bottle with soil, starting from the neck and leaving 2 inches at the top.
- Place seeds on the soil right up against the plastic bottle, at least 2 inches apart. A standard water bottle should only have 2 seeds, directly across from each other.
- Pour soil on top of the seeds. The package will specify how much soil to pour on the seeds.
- Fill the bottom half of the bottle half full of water. Place the neck of the top half down into the bottom half of the bottle. Gently tamp down the soil. The soil will soak up water through the bottle opening at the bottom.
- Place your planter outside or in a window and monitor the growth of the seeds. Remember to keep enough water in the bottom to keep the soil damp.
- When your plant has grown big enough, it will have to be transferred to a larger container.

Results

You can see the seed sprout and turn into a plant!

Why?

Plants need soil, sunlight, and water to grow. Though they grow the best completely surrounded by soil, in our clear planter we can observe how seeds sprout, form roots and leaves, and grow into plants!

To learn more about Earth science, check out the *Restless Earth* exhibit at the Pink Palace Museum.