

THINGS TO GROW

1. Cut one inch off carrots, beets, turnips, and parsnips, retaining stubby tops. Set tops in a saucer of water. You can expect new sprouts to appear in a week to ten days.
2. Onions sprout with no help. Use a small container to give the onion support. It grows rapidly.
3. Suspend a sweet potato in a small jar, or insert toothpicks in the side of the potato to hang it from the top of the jar. Place potato in water with the tapered end down. Sprouts will appear in about two weeks. Provide strings or trellis for the stems to climb.
4. Plant pieces of sprouted potato in a small amount of soil.
5. Soak orange, grapefruit, lemon or date seeds overnight. Plant in pots of sand or dirt. Keep shaded until sprouts appear. This will take about three weeks. Date plants need a lot of room, so use a large pot.
6. Squash and pumpkin seeds produce plants quickly.
7. Plant bird seed on a moistened sponge. Grass seed on a sponge or in soil will sprout quickly.
8. Color magic: Cut the bottom off a carrot or piece of celery and let it stand in water a few hours. Color half a glass of water with two teaspoons ink or food coloring. Add carrot or celery and let stand in bright sunlight. Cut the carrot lengthwise and see the color surprise. You will be able to watch the color travel up the celery stalk to the leaves.
9. A lazy man's garden is really a tiny hot house that never needs watering. In a glass jar or bowl, place a layer of charcoal, a layer of pebbles, and a layer of soil. Arrange plants in the soil. Water until the soil is moist. Cover the top of the jar with a piece of glass or plastic. When the water evaporates from the soil it cannot escape, so it condenses on the glass and falls back onto the soil like tiny raindrops. If too much moisture collects in the jar, take the top off for a while. Good plants to use in this garden are all kinds of fern, moss, twinberry, hepatica, lichens, and partridge berry.
10. Edible lentils include beans, peas, corn, and lima beans. Spread a single layer of lentils on a saucer. Add enough water to moisten, but not float. You will have a green forest in about a week to ten days. Sprouting is fascinating to watch.