



Seed Sprouting Experiment

A seed is mostly food for a new plant. It is packaged in a seed coat that contains an embryo which is what will start making roots, stems and leaves. The biggest part of the seed is the endosperm that is the food and energy to get the plant started before it can start making its own food through photosynthesis. To sprout a seed all you need is water and a little warmth!

MATERIALS NEEDED

- ▶ Seeds (a few of each type).
Garden seeds or dry seeds from the kitchen are all possible options
- ▶ Small plastic bag
- ▶ Wet paper towel
- ▶ Magnifying glass (optional)
- ▶ Observation sheets

TO DO

1. Examine your seeds. Make note of size, color, shape, hardness, and where you think it might start growing from.
2. You may want to soak your seeds, especially any big ones, for an hour or so before putting them in the bag. This is to give them a head start in absorbing water.
3. Fold the wet paper towel so it lays flat in the plastic bag.
4. Place the paper towel into the plastic bag.
5. Add a couple of each seed onto the paper towel.
6. You don't want the bag to be completely sealed, but also not wide open. Gently fold over the open edge to help keep the moisture in.
7. Place your bag somewhere you'll remember to look at it. It helps if it is in a warmish spot, but it doesn't need sunlight yet.

EVERYDAY

1. Check on your plastic bag. Feel free to pull out a seed so you can look at it closely.
2. Record what you notice. Is it the same size? Has the seed coat split? Is anything growing? Can you identify a root or stem?
3. At some point you may want to split one of the seeds open and see what the inside is like.
4. Add water to the paper towel if it is drying out (most likely you won't need to do this)

NOTES

- ▶ Sometimes seeds just don't sprout. They may be too old, need warmer conditions, or are sterile.
- ▶ Occasionally mold starts to grow on the seeds or paper towel. This in itself is a different interesting experiment, but for us, this probably means it's time to end our experiment.

FOLLOW-UP: *Summer is coming! Think about what you can plant in your garden. Now is a great time to plan our your summer garden.*