

Planting Time

Most kids love being outdoors, so when the weather permits, join them not only in play, but also in learning and growing together.

Planting a garden can be a fun family activity that teaches your children about soil and the earth, and yields a reward they will appreciate. Just imagine their bright eyes and smiles when the trees, flowers, vegetables or fruit you plant together began to bud or sprout.

Here are tips on how to quickly and easily plant a garden, regardless of whether your lawn space is big or small or nonexistent:

Planting in potting soil bags!

1. Purchase a bag of potting soil (5lb, 10lb, 20lb bag etc.)
2. Cut a square as wide as the bag on the top. Punch miniature holes on the bottom of the bag for drainage.
3. Start planting.



Planting in bags of potting soil is an easy way to introduce your family to gardening. The bags are great for families with limited space and are easy for clean up once your vegetables are harvested. Transplants do very well in potting soil gardens.

Recommended vegetables for bag gardens include tomatoes, cucumbers, cabbage, squash, zucchini and herbs.

Feel free to visit <http://www.ext.vt.edu/> to locate your local extension office for more ideas on planting gardens.

Source: Virginia Cooperative Extension Emporia, Virginia Unit Coordinator/4-H Extension Agent Morris F. White, III



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Build a Keyhole Garden

Keyhole Gardens are round gardens of about 2 meters in diameter and raised to waist-height to make them easy for youth and elderly to work. Because they are protected by stonework, the rich soils are safe from erosion. They retain moisture far more effectively than land farmed by traditional farming methods, and they are compact enough to turn the tiniest plot of land into productive agriculture.



Build a keyhole garden with your family, classroom or youth group.

You'll Need: Bricks or stone; compost or potting soil; soaker hose, garden hose; flowers and vegetable seeds; garden plastic (optional)

First

Select an area with plenty of sunlight in the morning and shade for hot summer days. Be sure to create your garden near a water supply to water the garden. (Rain barrel, etc.)

Second

After measuring your area for the garden, place a stake in the middle with a string attached. Decide how wide you want your garden from the stake and measure the circumference around the stake. Then spray paint your circumference. Allow space for your garden walk way to be inner or outer with your circle.

Third

Cover your area with gardener's plastic or cardboard boxes to help reduce weeds from growing in your garden.

Fourth

Use stones or bricks to build your keyhole garden foundation and walls. Most gardens are about 4 or 5 feet tall. *Start stacking.*

Fifth

After your walls have been built for the keyhole garden, start adding compost or soil to your garden.

Sixth

Start Planting!