



GREEN CITY GROWERS

MINI GREENHOUSE ACTIVITY

GOAL

This activity is a challenge to try your hands at growing a variety of plants from seed! You will need to provide the conditions required to germinate the seeds and take care of your growing seedlings once they have sprouted. This handout will get you started!

MATERIALS

In your kit

- 3 types of seed- nasturtium, cilantro, and basil
- Container gardening soil mix
- 2 6-well plastic mini egg carton greenhouses
- 2 plastic trays to catch drainage water



To gather

- A sharpie marker if you are labeling directly on egg carton
- Paper/notebook and writing utensil to map where each type of seed is planted (if not labeling on carton) and record observations and questions
- Something to water with - cup, clean spray bottle with water, small pitcher...anything will do.

Resource

We have sourced all seeds from Johnny's seed company. To see photos and find out more about the seeds go to: <https://www.johnnyseeds.com/> and type in the variety of seed in the "Search Johnny's" box in the upper right corner.

INSTRUCTIONS

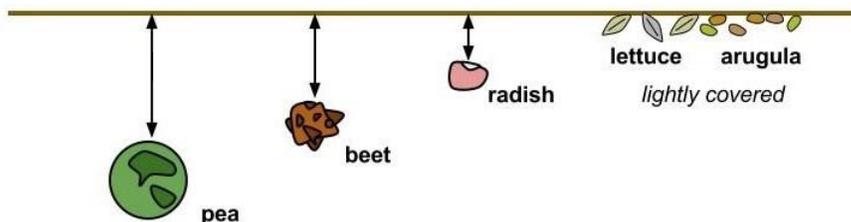
Follow these steps to provide for your seed's germination needs of **water, air, space, warmth**, and once they have germinated - **sunlight**.

Add soil and water

1. Plants need water through all phases in their lifecycle, but not too much! Holes have already been made at the bottom of each egg well. It's important for water to drain out the bottom so roots aren't sitting in pooled water. Roots take in water and also need to breathe air!
2. Make sure your potting soil is moist by adding water if needed. This means when you squeeze a handful of soil it holds together because there is water in it, but crumbles a little when you let go. It's not sopping wet and doesn't drip. Fill egg cartons so that soil comes to the top of each well.

Plant and label

1. Plant 1 to 3 seeds per well. A large seed will need more **space** than a small seed. You can plant more of the smaller seeds, and thin them later to 1 to 2 seedlings. Depth depends on a seed's size.



The GCG general rule of thumb is to plant a seed about as deep as it is large.



GREEN CITY GROWERS

MINI GREENHOUSE ACTIVITY

2. Write the name of the seed in sharpie directly on the plastic lid where you have planted it or make a key on a piece of paper. Write the date you sowed the seeds. Close the lid.

Find a good location and monitor

3. Seeds need **warmth** and moisture to germinate. Most indoor places should be warm enough for the crops you are planting. Avoid drafty places, or an uninsulated room.
4. Monitor your mini greenhouse every day. Condensation is a sign that more ventilation is needed. Open the lid a little more or open all the way. The soil will dry out faster if it is open all the way so check to see when watering is needed.

Relocate to a sunny spot and keep up the TLC!

5. Once the first seeds germinate, place your greenhouse strategically by a window. A south-facing window with 6-8 hours of **sunlight** a day is ideal. If you don't have this, that's okay. Use what you have.
6. When plants have germinated and are growing, keep the lid open if you haven't already. Don't forget to check every day to see if you need to water (or even twice a day)!
Happy planting!