

Growing plants from seed

This is much easier than you may think and it is easy to get hold of seed to try.

Method

1. Read about planting seeds and if you have all the correct equipment: <https://www.wikihow.life/Grow-Plants-from-Seed>
2. Now try to do this yourself. You may not have any gardening equipment, pots or compost but you can improvise all of these for no cost. For pots or trays, you could try egg boxes or plastic food containers, anything that will hold soil or another medium. If it is plastic or metal, you are best making holes in the bottom or you could easily waterlog the soil. With holes, any excess water will drain away. For compost you can use any soil you can find or some seeds will even grow on tissue paper! For seeds, you do not need to buy these, you can find them in fruit (eg tomatoes) or you can collect from wild plants that grow in the cracks of pavement (eg dandelion) but just make sure it has not been treated with a preserving technique such as tinning or cooking. Also do not pick a tree (eg apple) or it is unlikely to germinate in time.
3. You need to choose your variables for this experiment. For the independent variable you could choose the growing medium (eg soil), the amount of light, water, temperature and for the dependent variable you could measure a range of things such as height, time to germinate, colour – perhaps photos would be a good catalogue of your results.
For the control variables you need to keep the same everything except the one property you didn't choose for the independent variable and the type and source of the seed.
Since all seeds from the same plant are unique, you will need to plant lots of seeds for each independent variable or it could be just that one seed was better than another.
4. Remember to water regularly (little and often is usually best) and look at your seeds on a daily basis. Most seeds begin to show within two weeks in the right conditions.
5. **Safety: some seeds / plants are poisonous, so keep these out of the way of younger children or pets.**

Full professional scientist's trials of seeds and plants can be found at:

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/trials-awards/plant-trials>