

Which Soil to Use

Plants need three major things to grow properly; Air, water, and nutrients from the soil. If you were going to make your own garden, what kind of soil would you use to give your plants the most nutrients possible to help them grow big and strong? Let's find out!

For this activity, you will need: four paper cups, four seeds of the same kind of plant (we recommend peas or beans), and three different types of soils to fill the cups with. (We recommend potting soil, clay, and sand.)

1. Fill three of the cups with the soils you choose (a different one in each cup) and fill the fourth with a mixture of the soils.
2. Place a seed in each of the cups making sure that each seed is in about the same place in each cup. The second knuckle on your index finger works as a good marking.
3. Place each cup in a location where they will receive about the same amount of light.
4. Every other day, measure out an equal amount of water to place in each cup. While doing so, record any observations that you notice such as sprouts from the seed.

After three weeks of watering and tender care, see what plant has grown the best. What kind of soil was the plant growing in? Have a think about the reasons why this might be so.

Now that you know what soil has the most nutrients for the plants, use that soil to start up your own garden!

A Photo a Day...

If you have a garden or are planning to make one at school, pick one particular plant and take turns being the daily photographer! Take a photo of the plant every day from when it's first planted to when it's fully grown. Make a photo collage showing the growth of your plant over time and use this to understand the lifecycle of your plant!



Kevin the Kingfisher says,
"Send pictures of your
progress to
education@ceres.org.au,
we would love to see your
work!"

The Pressing Issue: Pressing leaves

Search in the area around your school for all types of plant life: green leaves, colourful flowers, plant buds...

Keep a journal where you describe all the types of plant life you find, and draw a picture of what you found in the journal as well. After finding these plants, go back to school and see what else you can learn about them. Preserve the most interesting and beautiful plants by pressing them into the journal alongside your notes. To press the plant, place it between two pieces of wax paper and squish it between the two heavy textbook, and let it sit to dry out for 2-3 weeks.

Taking note of trees and plants around you is one way of connecting with nature!