

Pollinate This! Plant Sprouts

PART 2 OF 2

SECOND GRADE

Bees and butterflies are extraordinary! Without them, our gardens wouldn't grow. Every fruit or vegetable starts as a flower on a plant. Plants rely on outside factors—like wind, birds, butterflies, and bees—to spread pollen from flower to flower. By doing a few simple things, you can plant a butterfly garden for your school.

SUBJECT

SCIENCE

TIME

30 MIN - 45 MIN

MATERIALS

Read Aloud book about pollinators from the Garden Library (optional)

Pollinator sprouts (from Pollinate This! Start Seeds activity)

Potting soil, enough to fill all of the paper pots

Plastic scoops, 1 per student

Spray bottles, several to share

Toothpicks, 1 per student

Permanent markers, 1 per student or several to share

Newspapers, several

Tomato paste cans or wooden dowels, 8

DIRECTIONS

- Begin with a read aloud book about pollinators from the Garden Library (optional).
- Distribute each student's plastic bag containing pollinator sprouts. Let students observe their seedlings, then ask the following questions. What did your seeds need to grow? What would happen to your seedlings if you left them in the bag?
- Explain that the seedlings are special because they will grow into plants that attract pollinators. Discuss a good location to eventually plant a pollinator garden (planting flowers in and around garden beds is a great choice to attract pollinators to the school garden). Today's activity will be transplanting the seedlings into handmade newspaper pots to give them some extra time to grow before being planted in the garden.
- Follow the directions on the following page to make newspaper pots. It may be useful to model this for students.
- Using a plastic scoop, fill each pot nearly to the top with potting soil and press down. Make a small hole in the middle, just big enough to plant the seedling.
- Remove the paper towel and moisten it before removing seedlings. Use a toothpick to untangle the roots to get the seedling out. It is okay to plant a little piece of the paper towel if the roots are stuck. Be very gentle with the roots.
- Gently place the seedling in the middle of the pot. Carefully cover the seedling with soil.
- Water the soil with a spray bottle until it is moist but not overflowing.
- Place one pot for each student outside of the classroom and water regularly. Seedlings will not survive if they dry out. Send students home with the additional pots.
- After a few weeks, transplant the seedlings into the school garden to create a pollinator garden.

SOURCE

- BCK Programs



How to Make Newspaper Pots



1. Fold newspaper to about the same length as the dowel or can.



2. Wrap the newspaper around the dowel, leaving a ½" - 1" overhang.



3. Fold the bottoms toward the center.



4. Fold the top down to secure



5. Fill with soil.

