

Welcome to Space Garden!

Congratulations! You are about to discover how plants in space are changing life on Earth and affecting future missions to the moon and to Mars. Please follow these instructions for building, planting and maintaining your Space Garden.



Contents

1. Bellows
2. Planting Base
3. Arcillite/Fertilizer
4. Foam
5. Syringe
6. Seeds
7. CD



Preparing Your Space Garden



1. Begin by unclipping the two metal hangers holding down the plastic bellows. Unsnap the four corners of the plastic base to separate the bellows from the base.



2. Open the bag of arcillite/fertilizer mix. Empty the contents into the base tray, filling until the arcillite reaches the top of the tray.

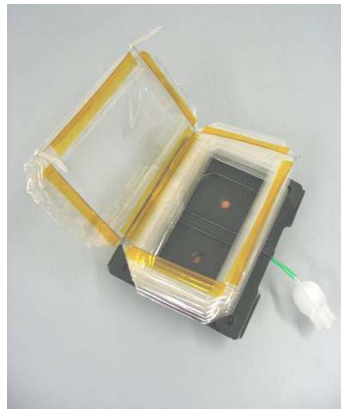


3. Place the foam on top of the arcillite. (The foam is used in space to hold in the arcillite so it doesn't float away in reduced gravity.)

Planting Your Space Garden



4. Insert the bottom "row" of plastic bellows under the base flaps. Snap the four corners of the base flaps to the base, securing the bellows.



5. Open the vent in the bellows to allow room to access the holes in the foam barrier below.



6. Place 3-4 seeds in the arcillite through the holes in the foam barrier. Sprinkle the seeds with arcillite. Clip the metal hangers to hold down the bellows.



7. Read your seed packet to review the temperature and lighting conditions recommended for your type of seed.

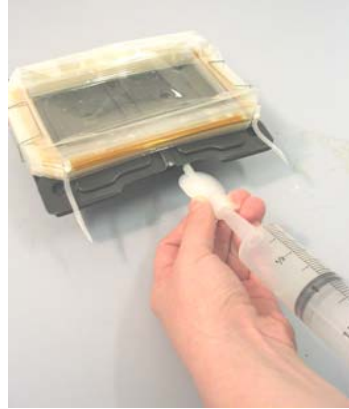


8. Record your name, type of seeds and planting date on the Data Sheet included with your Space Garden CD. Today is "Day 1."

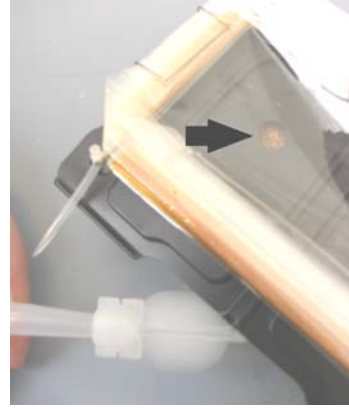
Watering Your Space Garden



9. Inspect your Space Garden daily for water content. Seedlings will most likely need to be watered as often as every other day.



10. Draw 30 to 60 ml of water into the syringe provided. Insert the syringe tip through the seal in the watering tube nozzle.



11. Pushing slowly on the plunger, inject water into the watering tube. Watch carefully for water to appear through the holes in the foam.



12. The first time you add water to the arcillite, you will use as much as 180 ml of liquid.

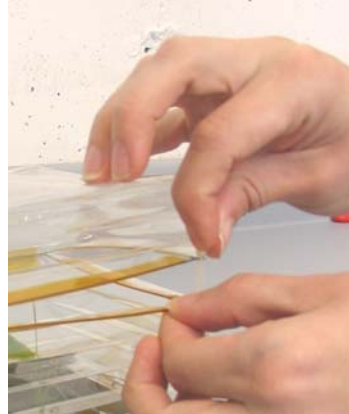


13. To avoid over watering, (which can cause mold growth) pull back 60 ml of water into the syringe after water appears in the holes in the foam.

Maintaining Your Space Garden



14. Expand the bellows as needed to give your plant room to grow. Unclip the metal hangers to release bellow folds until the desired height is reached.



15. Open the vent between the yellow rows of bellows by about 1/8 inch to control the humidity of the chamber.



16. If you see condensate on the walls, open the vent a small amount. The vent should also be kept open as your plant matures.



17. Place your plants near a source of light. The closer the plants are to the light, the more they will grow. Fluorescent lamps are recommended.



18. To reuse your Space Garden, throw the used arcillite in the trash. Wipe the base and bellows clean and dry the tray to avoid mildew growth.