



GREEN-SCHOOLS STAY HOME - WATER



Idea - Pot, Sow and Water

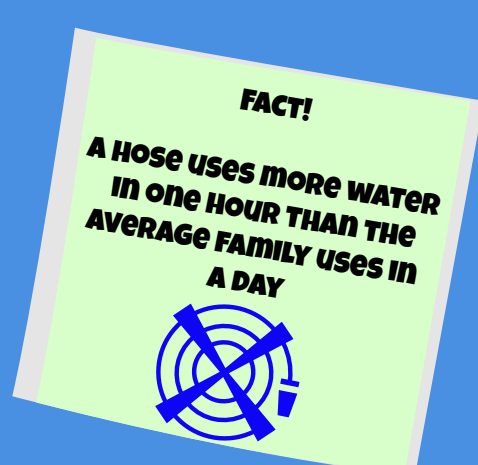
A plant is a living thing (organism), typically living in one spot e.g. trees, grasses, ferns etc., that takes in water and minerals (inorganic nutrient) through their roots from the soil and creates food for itself in its leaves using sunlight, water, inorganic nutrients and carbon dioxide (CO₂). Photosynthesis is the word used to describe how (the process) plants make their own food.

Plants are very important to all life on earth. For example:

- they take in (absorb) CO₂ and give off (release) oxygen (O₂) which is needed to breathe
- they are a source of food and medicine
- they provide homes for many different creatures and can be used as a building material
- they clean water
- plants are nice to look at and can make you feel relaxed and happy

Ideas to help your plants while saving water:

- Use it twice:
 - i) use cooled left over water from cooking to water your plants
 - ii) place a basin in your sink and collect the water from rinsing and washing food to water your plants
- Butt seriously: use water from a water butt if you have one
- Drop the hose: use a watering can instead
- Collect and use drinking water that you might normally throw down the drain, like the end of a bottle of water that has been there for a while, a glass of water that was sitting overnight etc.
- Water in evenings and mornings when it is cooler to avoid scorching plant and to prevent water loss through evaporation
- Leave your grass, it is resilient and will recover from dry spells
- Place plant material, like bark, on your soil to help it hold on to its water



Pot, Sow and Water

Make your own pot, plant a seed, water it and watch it grow!

WHAT DO YOU NEED?

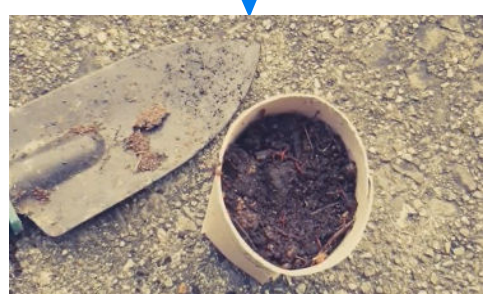
- Marker
- Empty toilet roll
- Scissors (adult help needed for younger children)
- Colouring pencils/crayons
- Seed (in season to plant) and soil
- Trowel
- Water



WHAT TO DO...

1) Make a pot using the following instructions and/or watch the video (<https://youtu.be/gdUfkMFtX14>):

- mark out 4 evenly spaced lines,
- cut along them with scissors,
- you will have 4 flaps that you then fold in an anti-clockwise direction
- tuck in the last edge
- You can then decorate your pot.



2) You can plant a sprouting seed you have found or buy seeds, just make sure it is the right time of year to plant it (check here: <https://www.garden.ie/this-week/> for some guidance). For large seeds, usually, fill pot half way with soil, put in your seed, cover to the top with soil and water but not too much (some small seeds can be sprinkled on top of soil).

3) Finally, place your pot in a sunny spot indoors at first and wait, keep watering and watch it grow! You could also give your potted seed away, with label and instructions, as a gift.

CONCLUSION...

Did you enjoy making your own decorative plant pot and planting a seed? Do you feel more confident planting seeds and would you like to do it again? If so, what will you plant? Are you planting anything edible and if so, will you wash and eat it when it's ready? Would you like to learn more about plants and water saving? If so, you could go to one of the following websites:

<https://www.water.ie/conservation/>

<https://www.water.ie/conservation/>

<https://greenschoolsireland.org/green-schools-stay-home-water-week-5/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zxfrwmn/articles/zss9msg>

Thanks for taking part,
keep checking back for
more tips, experiments &
activities with
#GreenSchoolsStayHome