



Bee Friendly Garden Starter

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INSTRUCTIONS

Preparing in advance:

1. Your kit comes with thousands of bee friendly garden seeds. Begin by carefully opening the pack and pouring them into one of the plastic bases. We have provided an extra base/lid for this purpose. (Be sure to let your participants know that these amazing plastic containers are made from recycled water bottles!)
2. Prepare a basin/bucket of water for soaking the soil pellets.

Conducting the activity:

3. Hand each participant: 1 base, 1 lid, 4 soil pellets, 1 spoon straw and 1 take home instruction sheet. Each child should write their name on their take home instruction sheet.
4. Soak the dehydrated soil pellets in water for about 4-5 minutes. They are ready when they begin to "plump" up.
5. Note that each soil pellet has a top where there is a hole in the netting that holds the soil pellet together, and a bottom where the netting covers the entire surface. Each participant should place 4 of the soil pellets into their base making sure that the hole in the netting is facing upward. They fit snugly when 1 is placed into each of the 4 corners.

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6. Using the back end of the spoon straw (NOT the end that looks like a little shovel), open the hole that is in the center of each soil pellet by pushing the straw about half way down into the center of the pellet. Do not go all the way to the bottom because we don't want the seeds to be planted too deep.
7. Next, using the end of the straw that DOES look like a shovel, each participant should scoop up about 10-15 seeds from the seed bin and place them into the center of each soil pellet. Don't be too concerned about the exact number of seeds. The spoon end of the straw will comfortably hold about 10-15 seeds. Your kit has more seeds than required so you will have plenty of leftovers. Once the seeds have been placed into the pellet, use the spoon end of the straw to pull the loose soil from the area next to the hole and cover the seeds with soil.
8. Once the seeds are planted add about ¼ inch of water to the base, being careful to pour the water between the soil pellets and not on top of the newly planted seeds. The soil pellets will continue to absorb this water over time.
9. Snap the lid on to the base. Make sure that the lid has been “snapped” shut on each of the 4 corners.

10.

If you are going to send the project home right away:

Using a small piece of clear tape (you provide), participants should attach the take home instructions to the **top of their lid**.

If you are going to send the project home after it sprouts:

Using a small piece of clear tape (you provide), participants should attach the take home instructions to the **bottom of their base**. This way their name will be on the project, but the paper won't block the sunlight. Move the take home instructions to the top of the lid when you are ready to send the project home.

Place indoors near a warm sunny window so that the containers are exposed to sunlight and warmth. You will see condensation form within the container indicating that moisture is being contained within the “greenhouse”. Check the base and add a little water after about 7-10 days or if the soil ever appears dry. Within 2-4 weeks, the bee friendly garden plants will sprout. Once the sprouts have almost reached the top of the greenhouse, they are ready to plant outdoors (weather permitting). Do not remove the plant from the soil pellet – simply take it out of the container and plant the entire pellet into a pot or directly into the ground. These plants will be a wonderful place for bees to visit all spring and summer! It will replace one little piece of the bees' natural habitat that has been destroyed by building and development. Just imagine if everyone created a little bee friendly garden!