

4-H CLUB MEMBERS CAN....

L-249

# Grow Shrubs and Trees from Seed

(To Be Used in Giving a Method Demonstration)

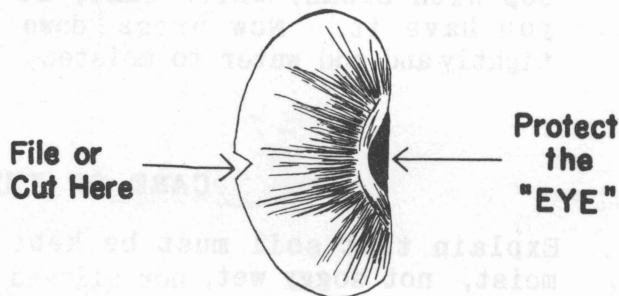
**Sadie Hatfield**  
Homestead Improvement Specialist  
Texas A. & M. College System

This demonstration can be done in a few minutes if you will try it out at home first. Carefully put all you need in one box. The demonstration will be more interesting if you have

some small plants you are growing from seed to show your club. The purpose of this demonstration is to show how to grow one or more kinds of shrubs or trees from seed.

## PLANTING THE SEED

1. Show a seed with a hard coat on it, such as mimosa or mountain laurel. Explain that a heavy water proof covering may keep the seed from sprouting for months or years.

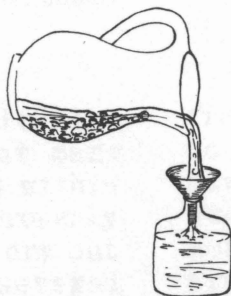


2. Cut or file through the outer seed coat. Show how you file or cut opposite the "eye" to avoid injury to the young plant. Explain that a tiny pin point hole will let in enough moisture to sprout the seed in a few days. The hole may be made with anything sharp like a needle, knife point or knife blade, or a nail file. Cut, drill, or file one tiny hole in the heavy coat.

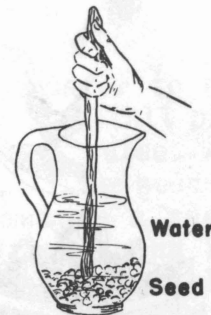
3. If a large amount of seeds are used soak them in battery acid or commercial sulphuric acid for 20 to 25 minutes. This softens the hard coat. Wash well and plant at once. Test a few seeds before putting all of them into the acid. You can tell whether the acid is taking off more than the outside. Leave a shorter or longer time, as your test shows is needed.



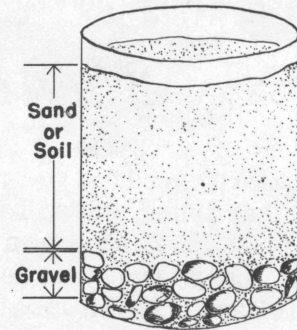
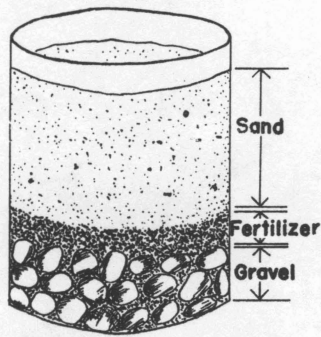
Acid on  
Seed Soaked  
20-25 Minutes



Pour Off Acid



Water  
Seed  
Stir With Stick  
Wash Several Times



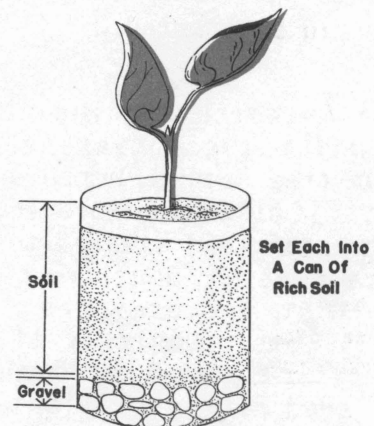
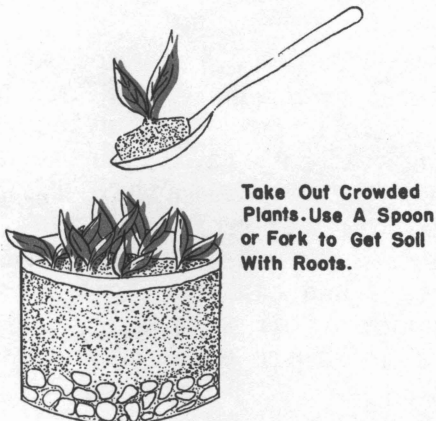
4. Show a tin can or flower pot with a hole in the bottom for drainage. Put in an inch of gravel and an inch of soil. Press down. Then you may put in an inch of rich soil or barnyard fertilizer. Fill to the top with clean, white sand, if you have it. Now press down tightly and add water to moisten.

Explain that sand may keep seedlings from "damping off." This means young plants die at the soil level and fall over. Explain that any good garden soil can be used instead of sand. Rich or heavily fertilized soils next to the seed often cause "damping off."

Explain that any good garden soil can be used instead of sand.

#### CARE OF THE PLANTED SEED

1. Explain that soil must be kept moist, not soggy wet, nor allowed to dry. Watering every day is not needed and may kill plants. Every other day or third day is usually better. A glass cover holds moisture in hot dry weather.
  2. Explain that shrub and tree seedlings generally need the same care as tomatoes or other vegetable seedlings.
- For example:
- a. Leave off the glass cover when they have a leaf or two.
  - b. Keep out of strong wind.
  - c. Give winter sunshine, but no hot summer sun.
  - d. Protect from animals and chickens.
  - e. Keep in half shade during summer for fast growth.
  - f. Do not let plants stay in flower pots long enough to get crowded, weak and spindling. Plant into larger flower pots or set outside.





## TRANSPLANTING THE SEEDLINGS

1. Explain that seedlings grown in cans and hardened outside may be set in the open any month. Be sure that they are "hardened" to the weather. Cold may kill a plant which has been growing in a house, hot bed, hot house, or cold frame. Summer sun may kill a plant which has been kept in the shade.
2. Explain that you fertilize and water after setting in the ground as you would to grow flowers or vegetables.
3. Explain that you should not break the cake of soil when you take the plant out of the can or flower pot. Running a knife around the edges helps loosen them.



Take From Can  
Without Breaking  
Soil From Roots

## PARTICIPATION

Let each member prepare some seed for planting. If you have them bring flower pots and soil, they may plant

seed during the meeting and take them home.

## DISCUSSION

Let each one tell how he is going to use this demonstration. Consider when plants for Christmas and birthday gifts should be started.

the berries are red and before they dry and turn black.

Points worth knowing which the leader may bring out are that many shrub and tree seed will come up within a few days if planted before thoroughly dry. The same seed allowed to dry out may take several months or several years. Give two examples. Mimosa seed will come up quickly if planted shortly after the seed pod turns brown. Nandina seed should be planted after

Generally it is safer to plant fresh seed than older seed. All plants do not live by the same rules. A few have unusual habits. Some seeds may need to "rest" or mature a year or more before sprouting. Among these are varieties of yaupons, hollies, magnolias, and cedars. Some seed *will not* sprout after they are dried out. In this group are some oaks, elms, and maples.

RECORD OF PLANTINGS				
Kind of Seed	Date Planted	Number of Plants Grown	Use Made of Seedlings (Planted, Sold, Gifts)	Remarks

Number of times this demonstration was given \_\_\_\_\_

Attendance \_\_\_\_\_



**How Did Your Meeting Go?**

**TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE**  
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