



WATCH YOUR GARDEN GROW

MATERIALS:

- FOUR (4) SMALL POTS WITH DRAINAGE HOLE AT BOTTOM
- LIQUID PLANT FERTILIZER
- DRY PLANT FERTILIZER
- FISH EMULSION FERTILIZER
- WATERING CAN
- Soil
- MARKER
- CALENDAR
- PACKET OF RADISH SEEDS
- WATER

PROCEDURE:

- 1. Fill each of the four (4) pots with soil. Moisten the soil and let excess water drain.
- 2. Sprinkle 8-10 ordinary radish seeds on the soil. Now sprinkle about ¼-inch of soil over the seeds and water again, but very lightly. Water very lightly every day with ordinary tap water.
- **3.** After the radishes sprout from the soil, place all the pots together in a sunny location.
- **4.** Label each pot with a letter or number. Water lightly every day.
- 5. Plan on (lightly) fertilizing one week after sprouting and again about 30 days from when seeds sprouted. Use a different fertilizer for each radish pot: Pot A: No added fertilizer, just soil Pot B: Liquid fertilizer (chemical) Pot C: Dry fertilizer (chemical) Pot D: Fish emulsion fertilizer (organic)
- **6.** Radishes usually mature in 35- 45 days. What has happened to your four plants? Are they all the same? What is different about them?

WHAT THIS MEANS:

In order for a plant to grow and thrive, it needs a number of different chemical elements. The most important elements include:

- Carbon, hydrogen and oxygen all available from air and water and, therefore, in plentiful supply.
- Nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium the three main nutrients you find in most packaged fertilizers.

If any of these elements are missing or hard to obtain from the soil, the growth of the plant will be limited. In nature, the nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium often come from the decay of plants that have died. To make plants grow faster, what you need to do is supply the elements that the plants need in a readily available form, such as fertilizer.

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