

gardening activities for Kids

Backyard bird feeder

What you need

- Clean 1 litre soda bottle
- Craft knife
- 2 wooden spoons
- Small eye screw
- Length of twine for hanging

How to make it

- 1 Start by drawing a 1/2 inch cross on the side of a clean 1 litre soda bottle, about 4 inches from the bottom. Rotate the bottle 90 degrees and draw another cross 5cm from the bottom. Draw a 2.5cm wide circle opposite each cross, as shown.
- 2 Use a craft knife to slit the asterisk lines and cut out the circles (a parent's job). Insert a wooden spoon handle first through each hole and then through the opposite asterisk, as shown.
- 3 Remove the bottle cap and twist a small eye screw into the top of it for hanging.
- 4 Finally, fill your feeder with birdseed, recap it, and use a length of twine to hang it from a tree.

Originally sourced from Family Fun Magazine



Upside-down tomato planter

What you need

- One 2 litre plastic drink container, clean and dry
- Twine
- Hole Punch
- Tomato plant (*a Sweet 100 is a good variety to try*)
- Garden Time™ Tomato Mix**
- Scissors

How to make it

- 1 Carefully cut off the bottom portion of the plastic container. This large opening will become the top of your new tomato planter.
- 2 Cut the small threaded top of the bottle. Be careful not to cut too high on the container. This will become the opening for the tomato plant to hang upside down. You just need a slightly larger opening to pull the plant through without causing it damage.
- 3 Use the hole punch to create 4 punches equally around the top of the wide opening end.
- 4 Cut 2 lengths of twine about 70cm long each. Set aside.
- 5 Remove tomato plant from its container.
- 6 Add the tomato plant to the soft drink container very carefully so that the top of the plant hangs upside down through the narrow opening. The roots should point upwards towards the wide opening end. Take your time with this step and help young children.
- 7 Thread the twine through the holes and knot so that you have 4 loops of equal length, to evenly distribute the weight of the container.
- 8 Cover roots with soil and continue filling until you reach the top of the container.
- 9 Hang your newly created upside-down tomato plant container in a sunny location. Water regularly so it does not dry out – and enjoy tasty red tomatoes! Feed with **Garden Time™ Tomato Fertiliser** as needed.



Indoor vegetable root garden

A see-through root vegetable garden.

What you need

Large carton
Plastic sheets

Daltons Premium Seed Raising Mix or Potting Mix

Seeds (*try radish or mini carrots*)

How to make it

- 1 Cut out the sides of a large carton and cover them with plastic.
- 2 Fill the container with potting mix soil. Wet and sow the seeds of your choice.
- 3 Use a spray bottle for watering and place in a warm sunny spot.



Photo courtesy of
www.whatdowedidtoday.com

Newspaper planting pot

What you need

Newspaper
300ml bottle (*plastic or glass*)
Tape

Daltons Premium Seed Raising Mix or Potting Mix

Small container to put the soil

Small shovel

Seeds

How to make it

- 1 First lay your newspaper down on the ground or table.
- 2 Fold and wrap it around about 2/3 of the bottle.
- 3 Tape and slide the bottle out – easy!
- 4 Fill the newspaper pot with **Daltons Premium Seed Raising Mix or Potting Mix**.
- 5 Make a small hole with the tip of your finger and plant a seed in the pot.
- 6 Once seedlings are 10cm tall the whole pot can be planted out in the garden.
- 7 Find a nice sunny spot in your garden.
- 8 Dig a little hole with hands or a small shovel.
- 9 Place the newspaper pot in the hole and cover with soil.



Sourced from carrotsareorgane.com

Gumboot garden

What you need

Old gumboots

Daltons Premium Potting Mix

Seeds or seedlings (*try flowers, herbs or even fruit like strawberries*)

Water

How to make it

- 1 Fill the gumboots with potting mix until you have reached about 2cm from the top.
- 2 Plant seeds or seedlings in the potting mix and water.
- 3 Watch the plants grow in your portable gumboot garden!



Photo sourced from www.kidspot.com.au

Milk bottle watering can

Turn an old milk bottle into a watering can by poking holes in the lid.





Plant your name or learn the alphabet with seeds

What you need

A long aluminum baking or roasting tray
Sand (*just use a bit from the sandpit*)

Daltons Premium Seed Raising Mix

Fast-growing seeds (*radishes, or even try sprouts*)

How to make it

- 1 Spoon a layer of sand onto the bottom of the tray approximately 2cm thick. This will be a water drainage layer.
- 2 Cover the sand with an additional 5cm or so of seed raising mix.
- 3 Using a finger or a stick, let your child trace their name in large, block letters.
- 4 In the 'trench' made by this letter tracing, plant your radish seeds approximately 2.5cm apart. Cover them with soil, sprinkle with water, and place in a sunny window.
- 5 Keep your soil damp, and within a week or so, you should see baby seedlings and beautiful letters.
- 6 You can even try this in bigger outdoor gardens – see how many letters of the alphabet you can fit in!

Sourced from www.education.com



The very hairy caterpillar

What you need

4 cups **Daltons Premium Seed Raising Mix or Potting Mix**
4 tablespoons quick-sprouting grass seed (*we used rye grass seed*)
Small yoghurt container or paper cup
Knee-high nylon stocking
Colourful elastic bands
Scissors
Plastic bag
Bobby pin
Googly eyes
Pipe cleaner
Small pom-poms

How to make it

- 1 Combine the potting soil and grass seed in a large bowl.
- 2 Cut the bottom from a small yoghurt container or paper cup for a funnel, then slide a knee-high nylon stocking over it, as shown.
- 3 Pour or spoon 3/4 to 1 cup of the soil mixture into the stocking, then slide a colourful elastic band over the end of the stocking to section off the pocket of soil. Repeat this process to make 5 soil-filled segments. Tie a knot in the top of the stocking and trim away any excess nylon.
- 4 Submerge the caterpillar in water for 10 minutes, then place it in a plastic bag and let it sit overnight.
- 5 Remove the bag and loop a semi-straightened bobby pin through the front of the stocking, then glue a googly eye onto each end of the pin. For antennae, cut a pipe cleaner in half, glue a small pom-pom onto one end of each half, and stick them in place.
- 6 Set your caterpillar on a plate by a sunny window and generously water the whole thing every other day. Your critter should sprout hair in about 4 to 5 days.

Photos and instructions sourced from *Family Fun Magazine*



Easy bird bath

Make an easy bird bath by reusing old terracotta pots. The base of the bird bath is simply 3 terracotta pots (*turned upside down*) in reducing sizes with a larger terracotta saucer on top as water container. Containers are glued together.



Birdseed biscuit

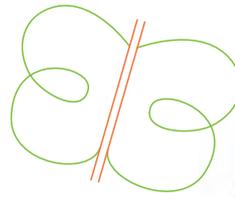
A great way to encourage birds into your garden for a tasty snack.

What you need

3/4 cup of birdseed	Cookie sheet
1 tablespoon flour	Foil
Water	Straw
Cookie cutter (use any shape you want)	Ribbon
Oil	

How to make it

- 1 Our recipe makes two 3-inch biscuits (*one is shown here*) or a single 4-inch biscuit. Mix together the birdseed, flour, and 2 tablespoons of water.
- 2 Spray or wipe a cookie cutter with oil and place it on a foil-covered cookie sheet. Pack the mixture into the cutter, inserting half a straw near the top to create a hole for hanging.



Make a bean tepee

What you need

6 x 6 foot poles
Twine
Rake
Pole bean plants *eg. Scarlett runner etc*

How to make it

- 1 First, decide how wide you want the inside of your tepee to be. As a guide, space each pole far enough apart so there is about 4 inches of open space in the center.
- 2 Next, gather your long wooden poles and secure them together with twine, both at the top and the bottom.
- 3 Make sure you push the poles deep into the soil so they don't fall over if it gets a little windy.
- 4 Most pole beans grow about 6 feet tall.
- 5 Once your tepee poles are in place, rake the soil from the center of the circle to build up a nice mound of dirt around the tepee base.
- 6 Then plant a generous amount of pole beans in the mound of dirt surrounding the tepee and water as necessary.
- 7 You should have a fully covered tepee in about 60-70 days.



Strawberry carton seed starter

What you need

Empty strawberry cartons (*you can even try plastic salad containers*)
Daltons Premium Seed Raising Mix
Small shovel
Seeds

How to make it

- 1 Fill the carton with **Daltons Premium Seed Raising Mix**.
- 2 Plant your seeds of choice according to the seed packet sowing directions.
- 3 Water with warm or room temperature water.
- 4 Close the top of the carton and store in a warm place away from direct sunlight.
- 5 Once the first seeds start to sprout, pop open the top slightly.
- 6 Once all the seeds sprout, open the top completely and place in a sunny location.

