

Making a Mini HERB GARDEN

Schools
Recycle
Right

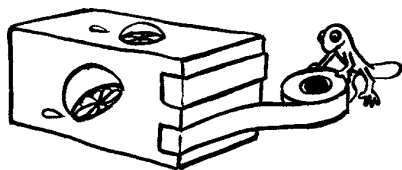


NATIONAL
RECYCLING WEEK

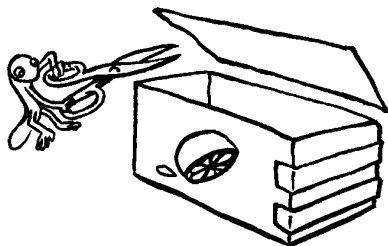
PLANET ARK

What do you do?

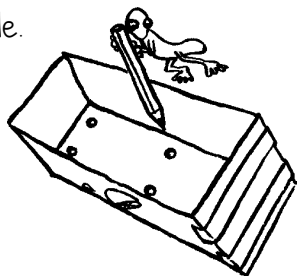
1. Tape up the open end of the carton as securely as possible.



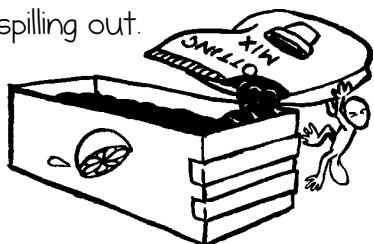
2. Cut off one long side of the carton, being careful not to cut down into the side of what will be your planter box.



3. Make six small holes in the bottom of the box for water drainage, two at both ends and two in the middle.



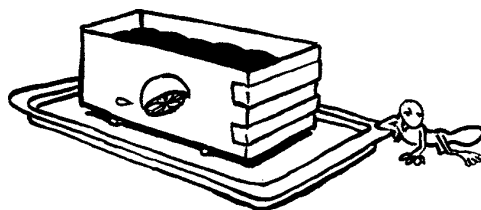
4. Now fill the box with potting mix up to 1 to 2 cm from the top. It is important to leave this space so that you can water your seeds (and later, your plants) without the water spilling out.



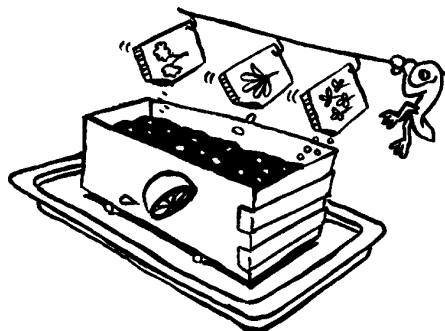
What do you need?

potting mix
2 Litre juice carton
trays
spray bottles for watering seeds
scissors
sticky tape
fertiliser
seeds

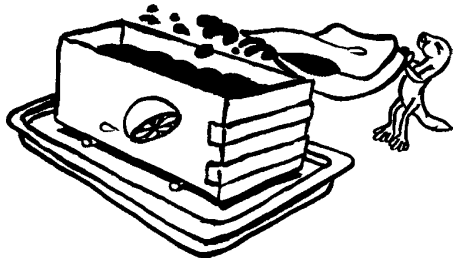
5. Place your box in a tray.



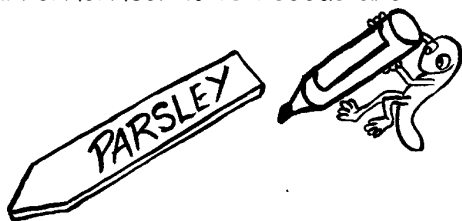
6. Plant the seeds of three or four different herb in your planter box (some will be very tiny). Use four or five seeds for each plant as some may not germinate. Place the seeds for each plant close together but separate from the next lot. Space your plants so they have room to grow.



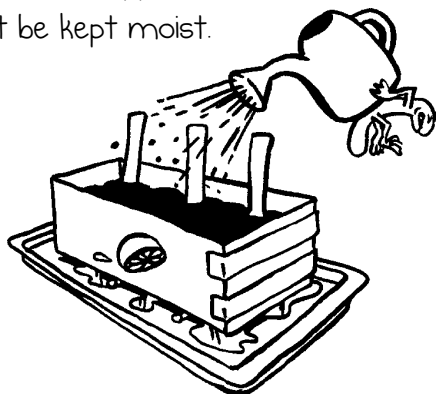
7. Sprinkle the seeds with potting mix and firm them down gently. Garlic cloves should be planted so that their pointy end is upwards and with 2 cm of soil covering them. Plant two or three cloves.



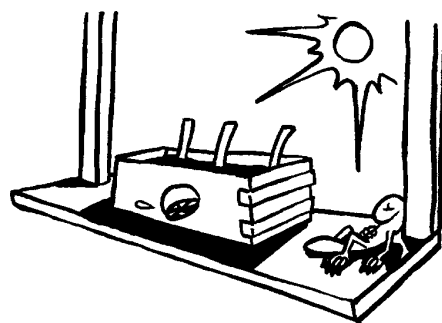
8. You can use the side that you cut off the carton to make planter tags. Cut strips of card with a point at one end. Write the name of each herb you have planted on the card and push the pointy end into the soil next to the seeds. Now you will remember which seeds are which.



9. Next, spray the soil with water, making sure you have soaked the potting mix well. Do not let the soil dry out while you are waiting for the seeds to germinate. Seedlings usually appear in 10 to 12 days and must be kept moist.



10. Herbs enjoy quite a lot of sun and once your seedlings have grown to 4 cm you can shift them to a sunnier position. Herbs are not indoor plants and will not flourish inside. You can help them to grow faster and stronger by feeding them with a liquid fertiliser such as worm castings in water or diluted fish emulsion (a bit smelly but loved by plants). They should be fertilised only once every two weeks. Too much fertiliser will kill your plants.



Your herbs should be harvested just before flowering or when they first start flowering. That is when their taste and colour are at their peak.



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