

Seed Sowing Activity

Activity prepared by Landcare Education– ph 92964727



VELS Links: Domains and Levels: Science (3, 4, 5)

Materials:

- Forestry tubes - enough for one per student
- Labels - these can be cut out from ice cream containers
- Pencils - one per student
- Trays to sit the forestry tubes in - this can be supplied by the nursery
- Seeds
- If possible provide the students with examples of the seed capsules that the seed they are planting came from.

Directions:

Discuss the size and colour of the seeds before you sow them.

For example: Wattles have a hard seed coat with an outer orange part (ants find this part of the seed very tasty and will carry the seed down into the ground).

Wattle seeds need to be pre-treated so that the hard seed coat is weakened. This enables these seeds to be planted at any time that suits us, rather than waiting for the natural conditions to be right, which naturally trigger the seeds to grow. Pre treatment can be via scarification of the seed coat with a knife or sandpaper or it can be by boiling the seed in hot water.

The procedure for planting your seeds

- 1. 4/5 fill your tube with potting mix that contains slow release fertilisers that are for native plants ie, low in phosphorous.**
- 2. Give your tube a tap to settle the potting mix, you may need to top up**

3. Sprinkle a few seeds over the potting mix and cover with a pinch of potting mix
4. Write labels to go with your plant
Include: Your name
Date seed sow
Name of plant - botanic & common name
5. Water thoroughly with a fine mist, otherwise you will displace the seeds.
6. Seeds should germinate within 3-4 weeks
7. Keep your seeds in a sheltered sunny place outside
8. Don't let your seedlings dry out
9. In approximately 6 months your seedling will be ready to plant in the garden

Good luck!