

Name: _____

Date: _____

Planting Seeds

One reason why soil is so important is because plants grow in it. You have observed that soil can be different, but did you know that different soils can affect the growth of plants? Plants grow best when soil is rich in organic materials that provide plants with nutrients to grow.

In this experiment, you will compare how well seeds grow in different soils. We will use sand, potting soil and “Seed Starter Mix”.

Equipment:

- 3 small paper cups
- 3 types of soil
- a measuring cup
- a pencil
- 9 radish seeds
- water

Procedure:

1. Complete the hypothesis at the bottom of this page.
2. Label the three paper cups as “Sand”, “Potting Soil”, and “Seed Starter.”
3. Fill each of the three paper cups with the same amount of the indicated soil.
4. Use a pencil to make a shallow hole in each of the soils. Be sure to make the hole the same each time.
5. Drop 3 radish seeds in each hole and cover the hole with soil.
6. Add 15 mL of water to each cup.
7. Place the cups in a warm, sunny place.
8. Monitor your cups each day to make sure the soil does not get dry. If the soil is dry, add the same amount of water to each cup.
9. Record observations after one week and after two weeks.
10. Answer the discussion questions when all observations have been made.

Observations:

I think that the radish seeds will grow best in the _____.

I think that the radish seeds will grow worst in the _____.



Observations:

Draw and describe what you see. Remember to detail your drawing.

Soil	After One Week	After Two Weeks
Sand		
Potting Soil		
Seed Starter Mix		

Discussion:

Which soil was best for growing seeds? Why do you think it was the best?

