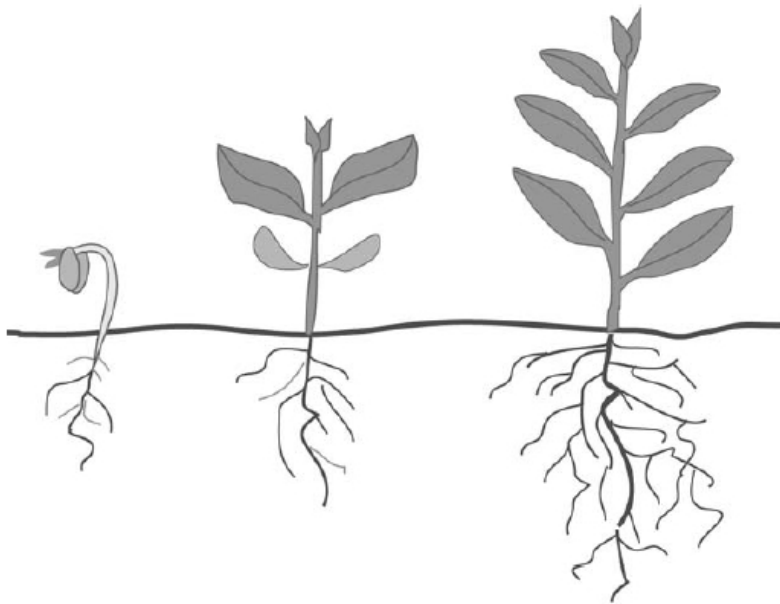


## Paper Pot

**Objective:** To create recyclable pots, and to propagate plants by seed.  
**Time:** Day 1: 20 minutes; Day 2: 15 minutes; Day 3: 10 minutes.  
**Materials:** Newspapers, plastic tub, plastic cups, pencil, soil, seed.

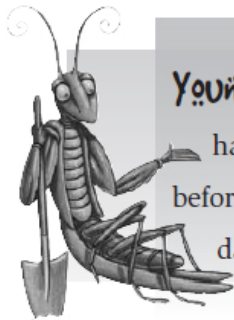
For this activity, the gardeners need to shred several newspapers into small pieces (about the size of business cards) and allow them to soak in a tub of water overnight before the activity.

Here are the steps the gardeners should take in making a paper pot: Blend the paper mixture for several minutes by hand—wiggling fingers and tearing pieces. Take a handful of the mixture and drop it into a plastic cup. Form the mixture against the inside bottom and sides of the plastic cup. Create a layer over the entire interior of the cup. Tilt the cup to drain the water as it is pressed out of the mixture. Use a pencil to push apart an empty space in the middle to create a drainage hole for the pot. It is also a good idea to push a second cup into the first to create a thinner layer. Allow a few days of drying time in a warm place such as outdoors or in a window sill. Then pop the paper pots out of the plastic cups. (The plastic cups can be used again.)



Explain that some plants propagate best by seed. Decide which plants the gardeners will plant in their chosen area and have them plant those seeds in the cups. After the seedlings have sprouted, have the students keep watch for the plant to produce its second set of leaves. These TRUE LEAVES are the signal that they are ready for transplant.

When these young plants are ready to be transplanted, the entire plant and paper cup can be transplanted directly into the ground.



**Young plants accustomed to being indoors** need to be hardened off before being transplanted outdoors. A few days before planting them in the ground, take them outside each day to spend a few hours in their original pots.

