



Growing Tomatoes from Seed

<p>EQUIPMENT</p>	<p>Tomato seed from garden centres. Choose Bush or varieties suitable for container production like BALCONI, TOTEM or TUMBLER. (Obtain enough seed to provide a plant for each child to take home plus one or two for the classroom. Seed count is available on the packet (90% germination/survival rate).</p> <p>Small flower pots or old yogurt containers</p> <p>Larger pot (4 litre container)</p> <p>Seed and potting compost</p> <p>Plant food</p> <p>Canes to support plants</p>
<p>PREPARATION</p>	<p>Source seed, seed and potting compost, old yogurt containers, a piece of clear plastic to cover the pots until seeds have germinated and a tray on which to stand the pots before starting the project.</p>
<p>BACKGROUND INFORMATION</p>	<p>Growing tomatoes shows the production of a common edible fruit from seed germination to flowering and fruit formation. It will help to explain the plant life cycle and the factors affecting growth.</p> <p>TIME SPAN. Sow seed in February; re-pot end of March, flowering April, fruit in June onwards.</p>
<p>SKILLS</p>	<p>Observing, investigating and experimenting.</p>
<p>ACTIVITY</p>	<p>The time span of this project will last from seed sowing in February through to the summer holidays.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sow seed individually in old yogurt containers. Follow instructions on seed packet as to sowing procedure. 2. Keep in well-lit warm windowsill, water as necessary. 3. Re-pot into a larger container using full strength potting compost once the plant is approx. 10 cm tall. 4. Start using liquid fertiliser with each watering, following instructions on plant food container. 5. Support plant with canes if necessary as the plant grows. 6. This is a good activity to develop understanding, caring, responsibility... and like all gardening projects getting your hands dirty. Encourage pollination by stroking the flowers underneath with a paintbrush. Natural pollination by bees would be very limited in the classroom!
<p>SAFETY</p>	<p>Wash hands after sowing seed and after each stage of potting.</p>
<p>FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES</p>	<p>Visit a local commercial grower of tomatoes.</p> <p>Ask questions about growing tomatoes to info@raringtogrow.com</p>