

# Bean there, doing it again!

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Last month we did some experiments with beans to learn about seeds. This month, we'll be using bean seeds to grow plants for a window sill garden!

## Here are the supplies you'll need:

- **1 or 2 disposable plastic cups**
- **a stick or thin dowel about 18" long**
- **some soil in a bowl**
- **Scarlet Runner or any pole bean seeds**
- **a spoon**
- **sharp knife or scissors**
- **newspapers**

Like many of our projects, this might get a little messy, so spread the newspapers over the table before you begin. Ask your grown-up to poke a hole in the bottom of your cup with the knife or scissors. That's so the water can run out when you water your seeds.

Pour some water onto the dirt in your bowl and stir it up with the spoon. Keep adding a little water at a time and stir until all the soil is moist. Don't make mud! Spoon some soil into your cup until it's almost full, and then press the soil down gently with your fingers. Put your stick into the cup and push it down almost to the bottom. Take two bean seeds and place them on either side of the stick and poke them down into the soil with your finger. Only push as far as your first knuckle! Add some more soil to fill up the holes, and use your spoon to pour a little water over the top. Put the cup on a plate so the water running out the bottom doesn't make a mess, and put it all in a warm place. The top of the refrigerator is good. Now you're done and you can clean up!

Every day, check the cup and add some more water if the soil feels or looks dry (it will be a lighter color). As soon as you see a little green stem appear, move the cup to a sunny window. Watch out for that stick! As your beans grow, they will curl themselves around the stick and grow upwards because they are vines. The vines will look pretty growing on your windowsill, and if you can keep them growing until May 15, you can transplant them outside.

Scarlet Runner beans have really pretty flowers and beans you can eat. Since they have been grown for hundreds of years, we'll be planting them in the Children's Pioneer Garden at the Dakota County Fairgrounds this summer. Be sure to come see them!