

Project 4: Do Plants need soil to grow?

Equipment list

Equipment	Quantity
Plastic cups or dessert pots	5
Teaspoon	1
Cocktail stick	1
Seeds (radish seeds)	A packet of seeds
Clingfilm	1 roll
Kitchen roll	1 square
Soil	3-4 teaspoons
Paper	1 piece
Cotton wool	Two or three balls/pads

Associated risks

We advise that these practicals are done under adult supervision.

Hazard	Risk
Soil and seeds	Can have bacteria growing in them, which means you must wash your hands afterwards.
Plants	Could irritate skin if you have very sensitive skin.
Water	If you use water on your plants be careful to clear up any spills.

Method

1. Place the 1g of material in each pot. One pot can be left without any material.
2. Wet the material in each pot with two teaspoons of water and then pour off any excess water.
3. Add two seeds to each pot.
4. Cover the top of the pot with cling film to keep the material moist.
5. Pock two small holes in the sling film using the cocktail stick.
6. Leave for one week then measure the growth of the plants using a ruler.
7. Record their results in the table.
8. Repeat each material 3 times and calculate an average.

Suggested materials

- Nothing
- Soil
- Cotton wool
- Paper
- Kitchen roll