

Growing Plants for Pollinators!

Here are some instructions for growing your own flowers for pollinators and some great tips to keep in mind when growing and plant your flowers. Start with a plant that is easy to grow such as nasturtiums, chives, violets, sunflowers, or black-eyed susans.

Materials

- Cardboard egg carton
- Potting soil
- Seeds
- Spray bottle
- Scissors
- Garden trowel and gloves



<https://www.pbs.org/parents/crafts-and-experiments/grow-seedlings-in-an-egg-carton>

Directions

- 1 An adult should cut the egg carton in half keeping the egg cup side.
- 2 Add potting soil to the individual egg cups in the carton.
- 3 Use a finger to create a hole in the center of each cup. Place one seed in each hole. Cover the hole with soil.
- 4 Spray the soil with water so that it is very damp, no muddy puddles please! Place the egg carton on a tray and keep it in a warm light-filled location indoors until the seeds begin to sprout.
- 5 Remind your child to water the seeds with the spray bottle everyday. The soil should stay very moist.

6 After your seedlings are 2–3 inches high, you are almost ready to plant them in your garden! Before planting the seedlings, it is a good idea to take your tray outside and get the plants used to being outdoors. Baby plants need to get used to being outside before moving there permanently. Start by taking them outside in the shade for a day or two (bringing them in at night) before planting them in the ground. Be sure to talk to your child about what you are doing with your seedlings and why it is important.

7 Make sure the egg carton is very wet and saturated before moving the seedling outdoors. Tear off one of the egg carton cups.

8 Using the trowel dig a hole in the ground or the container to where you are moving the plant. Remember to look at the seed package to see what kind of light the seedlings will need to grow well. Is it a sunny spot? A spot with a bit of shade?

9 Place the egg carton cup directly in the soil! Move some soil around the seedling to cover up the egg carton. The carton will decompose. Explain that "decompose" means to rot or break down into tiny parts and become part of the Earth.

10 Remind your child to water the seedlings every day to help them grow! You might consider taking a photo of the seedlings on the same day every week, so your child can look back at the changes in growth.