

EVERY CHILD A SEED

MY PLANT JOURNAL

NAME: _____

CLASS: _____

SCHOOL: _____



Once upon a time, Singapore was mostly covered with jungles and swamps. As more people settled on the island, nature made way for roads and buildings to house the growing population.

To build a beautiful and special home, people started to transform Singapore into a Garden City. Green parks started to emerge. Fast-growing shady trees were planted while creeper plants started to cover our flyovers and overhead bridges. These made Singapore a place where people can live, work and play in a garden environment that they helped create – a City in a Garden.

Even as we face climate change and become more urbanised, Singapore will continue to provide a more sustainable living environment as we transform into a City in Nature. We can look forward to fresher air, cleaner water, cooler temperatures, and better health and well-being. We do this by safeguarding our core nature reserves while creating more spaces for nature-based recreation, making our landscapes more natural, and strengthening the connectivity between our green spaces.

You too can play your part in caring for our City in Nature. Let's find out how!



Plants and their Uses

Sunflower

Helianthus annuus

Did You Know?

The Sunflower is not really a flower. It is made up of many small flowers clustered together. The outer ring is made up of flowers with big yellow petals. The flowers in the centre are important because they produce seeds.

Uses

The Sunflower is commonly used in bouquets and floral arrangements. Many of its plant parts are also edible and used as medicine.



Sunflower seeds make a delicious and healthy snack.



The flowers and leaves are used to make tea.



Oils and margarine can be produced from the plant.

Gardening Tips

- Sunflowers grow best in locations with direct sunlight (at least 6 hours a day)
- Use a stake to support your plant if it starts swaying



Roselle

Hibiscus sabdariffa

Did You Know?

The Roselle is a common home garden vegetable. Almost every part of the plant, from the leaves to the red calyces* and the roots, is edible.

Uses

From Africa to Europe, America, China and Southeast Asia, the leaves and red calyces of the Roselle are used widely for cooking, making drinks and for medicinal purposes.



The calyces are used to make a drink that tastes like Ribena.



Dried calyces are sometimes processed into sweet pickles.

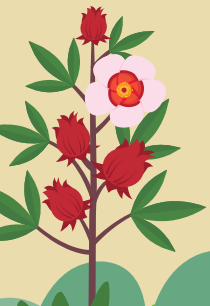


The calyces can be made into preserved fruit or jam.

Gardening Tips

- Roselle plants grow best in locations with direct sunlight (at least 6 hours a day)
- Fertilise the plant regularly to encourage growth

* Calyces: Plural for calyx, the outer layer of the flower bud.



Sweet Basil

Ocimum basilicum

Did You Know?

Sweet basil is a herb that belongs in the mint family. There are over 60 varieties of basil, each with its own distinct flavour.

Uses

Sweet basil is used in various cuisines such as Italian, Thai, Indonesian, Mediterranean and Vietnamese.



Both the fresh and dried leaves can be used as condiments to flavour food.



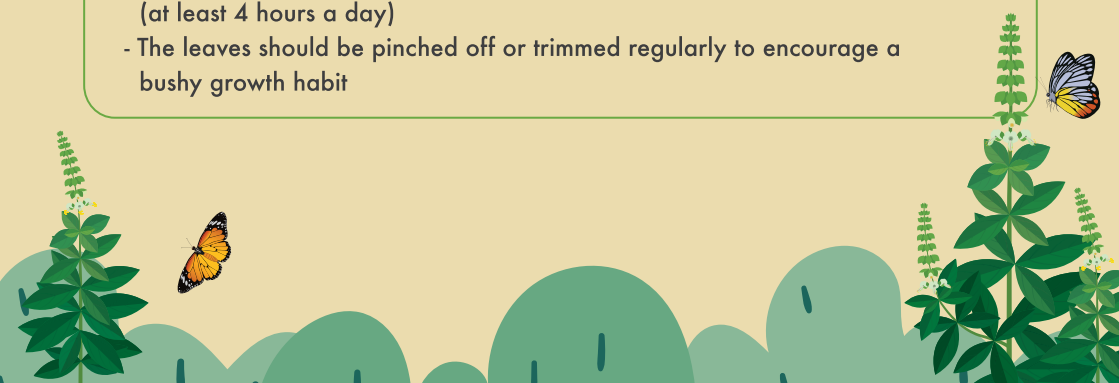
The leaves are used as the main ingredient in pesto sauce.



Sweet basil vinaigrette is a popular and healthy salad dressing.

Gardening Tips

- Sweet basil plants grow best in locations with direct morning sunlight (at least 4 hours a day)
- The leaves should be pinched off or trimmed regularly to encourage a bushy growth habit



Growing Your Own Plants

Let's try to grow some of these plants for our City in Nature!

You have received a plant starter kit consisting of a small pot, a packet of potting mix and a packet of seeds.

Before you begin planting, wash your hands and lay some old newspapers on the table or floor.

Step

1



Fill $\frac{3}{4}$ of the pot with potting mix.

Step

2



Make five shallow holes about 1 cm deep using a chopstick and put a seed into each hole. Do not have the holes too close to one another. Cover the holes with a thin layer of potting mix.

Step

3



Water generously until water drips from the drainage holes of the pot. Place the pot in a warm and semi-shaded environment.

Step

4



Water daily. Make sure the potting mix is damp but not wet. You can check the soil moisture level by pushing a thin stick into the soil and pulling it out. If soil remains on the stick, it means there is sufficient moisture, and is a signal that you can stop watering.

Step

5



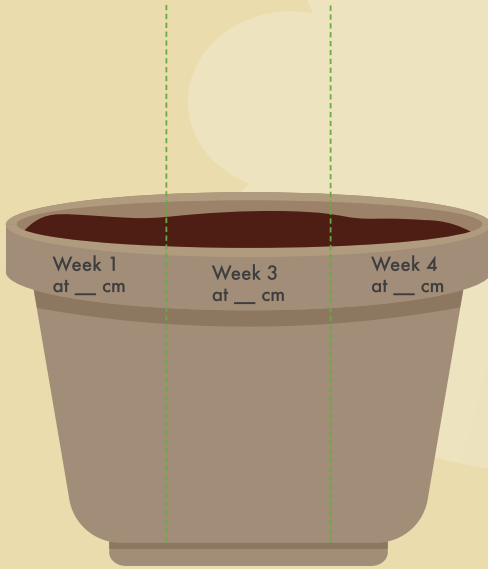
Place the pot under sunlight when leaves appear.

My Plant Growth Record

Now that you have planted your seeds, observe your plant's growth by drawing what they look like at different stages in the pot below.

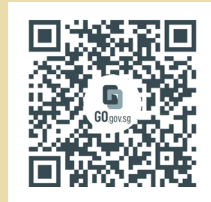
Seeds were planted on: ____ / ____ / ____ (DD/MM/YYYY).

Using the ruler on the right, measure the height of your tallest plant.



Note: Sunflowers may take a longer time to grow.
Take down your observations once a month instead!

Share your planting journey and photos of you and your plant using the QR code, and receive a token of appreciation from us



Share your love for nature and animals at
#NParksBuzz #AnimalBuzzSG



I WANT TO DO MORE!

The important role you play in greening Singapore does not stop here. Here are some ways you can continue to play your part:

- Encourage your family and friends to grow plants at home or in their offices
- Join your school's Green Club or start your very own!
- Learn more about our environment by reading up on nature and spending time in our parks, gardens and nature reserves

Can you think of other ways where you can contribute to making Singapore a City in Nature? Share them with your classmates and teachers.

For more information on the Every Child a Seed programme, visit www.nparks.gov.sg/everychildaseed



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