

Mary's Planting Science Journal

Research Question:

We are going to have six different pots. Two of the pots are going to have normal planting soil, with four pea seeds in one pot, and five onion seeds in the other. In the next four pots, two will have cotton balls as soil, and the other two will have wood chips as soil. These pots will also have five onion seeds in one, and four pea seeds in the other. All of these plants will be cared for and treated the same way, the soil will just be different. We are going to see if these plants are able to grow successfully by first seeing if they sprout. If they do sprout, will they continue to grow? We will be measuring the plant's height, the amount of leaves it has (if any), and the overall size of the plant if it does grow in these certain materials as the replacement soil.

Materials:

- Cotton balls
- Planting soil
- Wood chips
- Water
- 15 Onion seeds
- 12 Pea seed
- 6 pots

Predictions:

We think that the cotton balls will be able to grow the plants, while the wood chips won't or won't as much. We think that because cotton is very absorbent and wood does not absorb a lot of water. We think that the cotton balls will most likely be able to at least sprout the plants because of how absorbent and how much they are able to decompose. We think it will be hard for the wood chips to sprout because it looks like the wood chips don't absorb water well at all.

Experimental Design:

Steps to the project:

1. Get six small pots.
2. Fill two of the pots with regular potting soil. (Make sure that the soil is almost to the top of the pot.)
3. Fill two of the pots with cotton balls. (Make sure it's not overflowing.)

4. Fill the last two pots with wood chips (Make sure the wood chips are similar to the amount of soil and cotton balls in the other four pots.)

5. After filling the pots with the contents, start planting your seeds.

6. Soil pots= one pot will have four pea seeds, the other will have five onion seeds. Dig small holes in the soil about one inch- two inches down in the soil. Space the seeds evenly in both pots. Drop one seed in each of the holes you made. Make sure to cover up the holes with potting soil.

7. Cotton ball pots= Separate the cotton balls in both pots to make small holes to plant your seeds in. Plant four pea seeds evenly spread out in one pot, and five onion seeds spread evenly in the other.

8. Repeat steps 6 and 7 except with wood chips as the soil.

9. Water all of the pots so that the contents of the pots are evenly moist. (The water does not have to be the same in each pot, just make sure the soil, cotton balls, and wood chips are moist.)

10. Place the pots in a sunny window, and let your plants grow!

Over time, monitor the seedlings in the pot. Make sure that the soil is always moist enough for the plants to grow, but not too wet. If the seedlings do start to sprout, record your observations and measure the size of the sprouts. Record the height of the plants, the amount of leaves (if any), and the overall size compared to each plant.

Observation Table

Date:	Pea 1: Soil	Pea 1: Wood Chips	Pea 1: Cotton Balls	Onion 2: Soil	Onion 2: Wood Chips	Onion 2: Cotton Balls
March 7:	Not Sprouted	Not Sprouted	Not Sprouted	Not Sprouted	Not Sprouted	Not Sprouted
March 8:	Sprouted: 3 seedlings-1cm, 0.5 cm, 1.3 cm	Not Sprouted	Not Sprouted	Not Sprouted	Not Sprouted	Not Sprouted
March 11:	Sprouted: 4 seedlings-7cm, 14cm, 15.7cm, 17.6cm	Sprouted: 1 seedling- 4cm	Sprouted: 3 seedlings-9cm, 10.3cm, 11.5cm	Sprouted: 2 seedlings-0.5cm, 0.2cm	Not Sprouted	Sprouted: 2 (One has fallen to the bottom of the pot) seedling-1.1cm
March 13:	Sprouted: 4 sprouts-11.7cm, 17cm, 19.1cm, 20.2cm	Sprouted: 1 sprout-7.7cm	Sprouted: 3 sprouts-15cm, 15.5cm, 14.5cm	Sprouted: sprouts-1.3cm, 1.1cm, 0.5cm, 0.5 cm	Not Sprouted	Sprouted: 2 (We can no longer see the other sprout) sprout-1.3cm

Mar 4, 2024

Entry #1:

Today we're going to start planting our seeds. We have two different bins labeled 1 and 2. Bin number 1 has three different pots, each having 4 pea seeds planted in them. 1 pot has normal potting soil, one has dampened cotton balls, and the last one has wet wood chips. We made sure each of the pots are moist enough for the seeds to hopefully germinate. Bin number 2 is the same thing except each pot has 5 onion seeds instead of 4 pea seeds. We have six pots in total. All of the plants should get a similar amount of light, and the water will be different depending on how much we need to keep it moist. We are excited to see if our plants sprout, and we are going to let them grow.

Mar 7, 2024

Entry #2:

Today we checked on our plants. We saw one of the pea seeds wasn't entirely covered, and it started to sprout. This was in group one, pea seeds, the soil pot. The 2 wood chip pots were very dried out, and we watered them. The 2 soil pots were also a little bit dry, so we gave them a small amount of water. Both of the cotton ball pots were very wet still, so we didn't end up giving them water. We think that the pea seeds in the soil pot are starting to sprout because of the one pea seed that was uncovered. We saw that the pea seed's outer layer started to crack open, and a small whitish-green sprout was emerging from the inside of the seed. So far, no seeds have sprouted or broken through the soil. We are going to continue to let them grow.

Mar 8, 2024

Entry #3:

Today, one of our pots sprouted. Pea 1, soil, has three small seedlings. The heights consist of 1cm, 0.5 cm, and 1.3 cm. None of the other pots have sprouted. We watered all of our pots. The wood chips pots were very dry, and needed the most amount of water. The soil pots just needed a little bit of water because they were getting a little bit dry at the top. The cotton ball pots were also slightly dried out, and we gave them a small amount of water to keep them moist. We recorded our data in our data tables, and we are going to continue to let our plants grow over the weekend.

Mar 11, 2024

Entry #4:

A lot of our seeds have sprouted. All of the pea pots have sprouted. The soil has 4 sprouts ranging from 7cm, 14cm, 15.7cm, and 17.6cm. The cotton balls have sprouted too. They have 3 sprouts with all similar heights consisting of 9cm, 10.3cm, and 11.5 cm. The woodchip pot for the peas has one sprout with a height of 4cm. Some of the onion seeds have sprouted too. The soil pot for the onions has 2 very small sprouts. Their heights consist of 0.5cm, and 0.2cm. The cotton ball pot also has 2 small sprouts. One is located at the bottom of the pot, and we were unable to measure it without disturbing the other seeds growing. The sprout we did measure has a height of 1.1cm. The wood chip pot with the onion seeds is the only one we did not find any sprouts. All of the pea sprouts have a light, lime-green coloring with few leaves. So far, the onion seeds are a very short and thin, lightish green-brown sprout. The average number of leaves per pea sprout is around 3.5 (rough guess). We watered all of our plants, and are going to put them in a sunny window for the day.

Mar 13, 2024

Entry #5:

Today we noticed that the sprouts grew even more. The pea seeds don't seem too much taller than they were 2 days ago, but there are definitely more leaves and they are getting bigger. The soil pot with the onion seeds has 4 sprouts now instead of 2. We watered all of our plants today, and the wood chips are already drying up. (We learned that they don't absorb water very well). The wood chip pot with the onion seeds still hasn't sprouted any seeds. We are worried that the seeds got washed away through the holes in the bottom of the pot when we watered them. The wood chips don't do a very good job of keeping the seeds in one place. All of the measurements can be found in the table above. We are going to make sure to rotate our plants to face away from the sunlight so they will start to grow straight again. We put our plants back to their spot, and we'll check on them tomorrow.