

## Teacher Direction Sheet for Starting Plants (K-2)

1. **Time:** Begin growing plants for each group of students ahead of time. Each group should have a corn plant, a lima bean plant, and a pumpkin plant. Each plant has a different time for growth. However, planting the seeds about three weeks prior to the activity and ensuring they are watered and placed in a sunny area is a good estimate.
2. **Materials:**
  - It is recommended to plant the plants in the peat cups (the type that could be placed right in the soil.) If unavailable, using recycled yogurt containers with holes punched in the bottom for drainage will also work.
  - Standard potting soil will work for this activity.
  - Seeds can be obtained from a seed catalog or a garden center.
  - Small poles to support the bean seeds will eventually be needed. Bamboo skewers will work for this activity.
3. **Planting:**
  - Plant each different type of seed in a peat cup or yogurt container. Two seeds in each should be sufficient for the activity. It is important to plant extra starter plants in case some do not germinate.
  - Fill each container half full with potting soil and place the seeds in the center of each cup. Lightly tamp down and cover with additional potting soil until the cup is three-fourths filled with potting soil.
4. **Water:** Keep the soil moist, but not saturated. Ensure that you are providing each plant the same amount of water each time they are watered. Do not allow the soil to dry out but do not over saturate as well.
5. **Placement:** Keep all plants in the same sunny area.