

HARVEST *March* of the MONTH in the CLASSROOM SEED PAPER



OBJECTIVES

Students will learn how to make seed paper that they can plant in the garden, on a sunny windowsill, or share with others.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Recycled paper scraps
- Small seeds (ex. Lettuce, wildflowers, spinach, etc.)
- Water
- Towels (paper & cloth)
- Blender
- Popsicle sticks
- Glue (hot glue preferably)
- Large bucket or water catching container
- Window screen material

LESSON

For a visual explanation of this activity, please watch our "[Growing without a Garden](https://www.massfarmtoschool.org/announcement/indoor-school-growing-project-ideas-for-the-classroom/)" webinar recording. (<https://www.massfarmtoschool.org/announcement/indoor-school-growing-project-ideas-for-the-classroom/>)

Setup

Prep Popsicle frames by gluing sticks into a square or rectangle

Cut out a piece of window screen that fits the frame & glue to the frame, let dry

Prep stations for blending pulp, paper making, and drying

Prepping The Pulp

Gather recyclable paper. You can use: newspaper, egg cartons, tissue paper, phone book pages, paper grocery bags, scraps of unprinted computer paper. After you have gathered your paper, have students tear and shred the paper into small pieces.

Fill blender halfway

Pour in warm water until it's almost full & blend to make fine pulp

Paper Making

Set up a water catching bucket & place the screen over the bucket

Pour pulp onto screen, making a thin layer

Press down gently to remove some, but not all of the excess water

Place the screen with the pulp on a towel in a drying area

PROCEDURE, cont.

Mixing Seeds

Depending on seed placing, sprinkle seeds on top of paper and mix carefully into paper pulp
If needed, you can go back to the water bucket and pour more pulp to integrate seeds into the paper

Drying

Option: Flip screen over so the paper is in contact with towel and gently press to separate paper from the screen

Use another towel and gently press to remove more water

Let the paper dry for 24-48 hours. You can cover with paper towel or leave it exposed.

Removing

After the paper is completely dry, gently peel paper off of the screen

Store the paper in a dry and dark place to prevent the seeds from germinating

Students can write or stamp on the seed paper using food safe ink

Germinating

Take one piece or section of the seed paper and lightly mist it with water

Place it inside a plastic bag & label the paper with name, date, and plant type

Set the bag in a sunny spot either flat or hanging and watch the seeds germinate!

Transplanting

After about 3-7 days depending on seed type, carefully separate seedlings from each other (it's okay if seed paper is still attached)

Plant in growing containers with soil and water

Place containers in clear plastic container to create a mini greenhouse

Rest lid on top and leave a small gap for air circulation

Water whenever soil is dry! Usually once a day.