

426-904

April, 1981

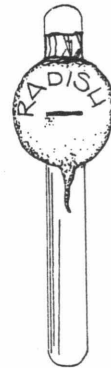
## windowsill salad garden

Oh, no! You say you haven't got a garden spot outside? or even a balcony or patio to put containers on? Oh, dear! It's the middle of winter and you can't even put the cat outside? Well, do you have a windowsill, or a little table that you can put near a sunny window? Then, you can grow a salad garden!

Learn how seeds grow by doing the Vegetable Seeds project before you do this one. Then, plant vegetables that will grow well indoors for a windowsill salad garden.

### Just for Fun - Garden Markers

You need: popsicle sticks or plastic straws  
heavy cardboard  
construction paper  
magic marker  
pencil  
scissors  
glue or rubber cement  
stapler (optional)



1. To make markers for your indoor garden, either clean some popsicle sticks, or cut long plastic straws in half.
2. Draw pictures in pencil of the vegetables you will plant on the construction paper. Then trace the outline with the magic marker. Write the name of the vegetable on the picture, or draw a face, whatever you think will look nice. If you don't know what a particular vegetable looks like, find a photograph in a seed catalog or magazine.
3. Cut the pictures out around the outline and paste the pictures onto the cardboard. Then cut the pictures out again, this time with the cardboard on back. If the edges come up, glue them down again.
4. Staple or glue the pictures onto the straws or popsicle sticks. Put the markers in your growing pots so you can tell what vegetables are growing where.

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Game - Find the Vegetables

See if you can locate the vegetables hidden in these sentences.

Example: Brad is happy to see me. (radish)

The decor next door is poor.

Johnny is the pump king of this gas station!

Did Arti choke on that seed?

A wasp in a chair is one to watch out for!

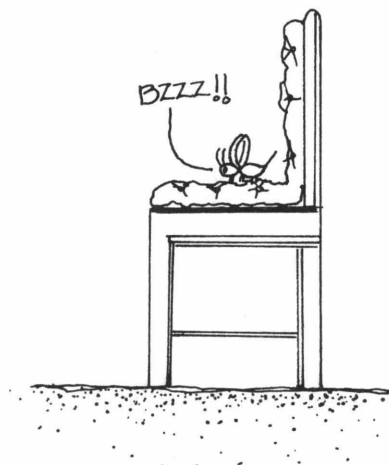
We found Spot at Oscar's house.

May I tape a note to the wall?

That was Toni on that horse!

If we aren't careful we will char Daddy's steak.

The beggar licked the plate clean.



(Answers are on page 4.)

Project - Windowsill Salad Garden

Here are some plants that will grow well indoors. Choose at least five for your garden:

- |              |                    |
|--------------|--------------------|
| leaf lettuce | radishes           |
| herbs        | onions or shallots |
| beets        | garlic             |
| carrots      | spinach            |

-- and don't forget sprouts!

Some that are harder to grow, but people have done it:

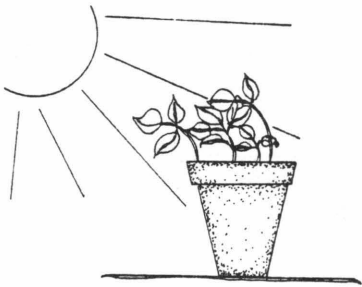
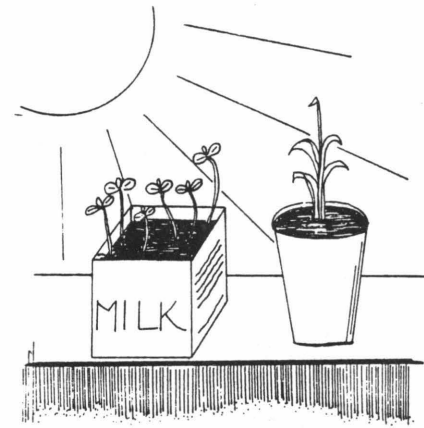
- |                 |                                  |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| cherry tomatoes |                                  |
| potatoes        | (not recommended unless you have |
| cucumbers       | a very sunny south-facing window |
| kale            | or a plant grow-light)           |

- (1) Read the "Seeds, Soils, Supplies" HELP sheet for instructions on starting seeds. It will also be helpful if you have done the Vegetable Seeds project, too. If you haven't, you can do that project to start your Windowsill Salad Garden seeds. Use small containers, such as cut-off milk cartons and jugs, so you can put the plants close to the window.
- (2) If any plants get too large for their pots, or if you start them in jiffy pots, see the "Transplanting" HELP sheet. You will probably only need to transplant herbs or tomato plants if you grow them. Root crops should not be transplanted, but you may need deep containers for them. Check your seed packet to see how deep they grow.

(3) If your windowsill is not very sunny, try putting aluminum foil underneath and around your pots. This will reflect light onto them.

(4) Follow directions on the "Watering" and "Fertilizing" HELP sheets to keep your plants growing. Other HELP sheets will give you useful information, too.

(5) Publication 836, "Guide for the Beginning Gardener," should be available to you. This will give you information on how to grow each vegetable and when to harvest your produce.



(6) If your plants lean toward the light, turn them around occasionally. This is caused by phototropism, which is the tendency of plants to turn toward the light so they can get as much as they need. You can do an experiment on phototropism as an Extra Project. Your leader has information on this with the Kitchen Garden project.

If you have any problems, see your leader or call your County Extension Agent or a gardener you know. Be sure and keep careful records of your plants to turn in at the end of the project.

### Record - keeping

On a separate sheet of paper, write down the following information as you do your project.

What you plant, name of vegetable and variety

Dates planted

What kind of containers you use

Did everything sprout?

Did you have any problems?

If so, what did you do about them?

How long till each vegetable was ready to harvest?

Do you plan to grow more salad vegetables?

Other notes and comments

What HELP sheets did you read? Were they useful?

## Extra projects

If you would like to try some different projects related to this one, see your leader. There are three Extra Projects: (1) A Light Garden (requires indoor plant lights), (2) Variety Trials, and (3) Phototropism.

## New Words

light garden: an indoor garden under plant lights

phototropism: (photo = light; tropism = turning) the tendency for plants to turn toward light

variety trials: testing of different plant varieties under the same conditions to see which are more suitable for growing in those conditions

variety: subgroup of a plant species; a specific type of vegetable; for example: tomato is a species; *Big Boy* and *Beefsteak* are varieties of tomatoes

Look for these vegetables in the "Find the Vegetables" game:

artichoke	corn
onion	pea
garlic	spinach
chard	potato
pumpkin	