



EGGSHELL GARDEN

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Starting seeds indoors is something you can do any time of the year. But April is the month for starting seeds indoors that you will plant outside. Eggshells make perfect “pots” for starting seeds. They are just the right size, and unlike plastic pots they are biodegradable. Many holidays that occur in the spring use eggs as a symbol of life. Eggshells bursting with beautiful green plants make a lovely decoration on the holiday table. You don’t have to plant flowers or vegetables—you can plant grass, cress, alfafa, etc.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

eggs

spoon

potting soil

seeds

spray bottle

egg carton or muffin tin

plastic wrap

Purchase seeds that have been packed for the current year. The date for planting is printed on the package. Old seeds that have not been stored properly may not germinate. Every seed has a different germination time. Small seeds germinate more quickly than large.

You can plant as few or as many eggs as you like. If you plant several different kinds of seeds be sure to label the eggs, by writing the name either on the shell or on a Popsicle stick or wooden coffee stirrer. Try to plan this project when you will have a use for all the eggs such as Baked Custard. It would be a shame to waste them.

HOW TO: Try to break the eggs about $\frac{1}{3}$ down from the pointed end. It will be difficult to keep the soil in the egg if it is too shallow. If you break off too little it will be hard to fill the egg with soil. Rinse the egg and let it dry.

Using a spoon, fill the egg almost full with potting soil. Pour a little bit of water into each shell to moisten the soil. Sprinkle several seeds over the soil. The smaller the seed, the more you can plant. If you plant a seed that produces a big seedling, such as a sunflower, you should plant only one. Gently press the seeds into the soil. Cover the seeds with a little more soil. Wipe off any soil that is sticking to the outside of the shell. Before you put the shells in the carton, water them gently using a spray bottle. Cover loosely with a piece of plastic wrap. Close the lid of the carton and put it in a warm but dark place. Check daily to make sure the soil is moist. It may only take 1 or 2 days for the seeds to sprout.

When the stems are about $\frac{1}{2}$ " high, open the lid, remove the plastic wrap, and bring the carton into the light, but avoid direct sunlight. Continue to water gently with a spray bottle. If you plan to plant the seedlings outdoors, wait until the stems are about 3" high and have 3 sets of true leaves. Do not plant until after the last frost. Freezing temperatures will kill the tender plants. Be sure to remove the shell gently before planting.

NOTES ON MY EGGSHELL GARDEN

