

Pawar Public School, Nanded City, Pune

Std : VII

Subject : Science-2

Date :11/05/2020

Holiday Homework

Activity: Germinate a seed in a small pot. Water it every day for a few minutes using a drip made from a piece of old cotton cloth or cotton wick. Arrange your drip system as shown in the figure. The next time your family decides to go on a holiday, construct a similar system for your houseplants. You can water many plants from the same container as shown in the picture.



How It Works

A wick watering system for potted plants employs a soft fabric string or ribbon, known as the wick. You'll find one end of the wick buried in the potted plant's soil, with the other hanging in a bucket or pot of water. Water flows up the wick through a scientific principle known as capillary action and waters the plant with just the right amount of moisture. When the potting soil is completely damp, it ceases to soak up water from the wick until it dries out once again.

Materials

A homemade wick watering system uses materials found in most average homes. You'll need an old T-shirt and scissors to cut it, or some wide cotton shoelaces. A rock or some heavy nuts and bolts will hold the end of the wick underwater and a large bucket or pot will hold the water.

How to Make

Surround a bucket or other vessel with potted plants. Tie a weight to the end of a strip of fabric or shoelace, making one strip per plant. Bury the other end of a strip about 3 inches deep in each pot, placing it about halfway between the stem and the outside of the pot. Place the weighted ends of all the wicks in the bucket, and fill the bucket with water. Watch the level of water in the bucket and refill it when necessary.

Advantages

The soil will absorb only as much water as it needs, so a wick watering system avoids the problems of over- or under-watering. It relies much less on regular care, so the plant is more likely to get a regular supply of moisture. A homemade system works just as well as commercial methods of watering plants, but it costs much less. You can leave your plants alone for an extended period without paying someone to come in to water them while you're gone.