

Planting the Seeds

Materials per team:

- 3 hydroponic sponges (1-in³ each)
- 3 clear solo cups
- 1 measuring cup
- 1 graduated cylinder
- 6–8 Wisconsin Fast Plant seeds
- black marker
- sticky notes
- water

Procedure:

1. Label cups with marker: 19mL, 42mL, 69mL. This represents the amount of water you will use.
2. Place 1 sponge inside of each solo cup.
3. Pour a small amount of water into your measuring cup, then pour the water slowly into the graduated cylinder to measure out 19mL.
4. Pour the 19mL of water over the sponge in the cup labeled 19mL.
5. Use your fingertips to slowly press down on the sponge until it is fully compressed. Apply pressure evenly to release the air in the sponge.
6. Slowly release pressure to allow the sponge to soak up the water and keep it from floating up.
7. Repeat steps 4–6 with 42mL and 69mL of water.
8. Your teacher will distribute the tiny seeds to plant. Dip your fingertip in water, then gently press your fingertip on a seed and place it into the hole in the sponge. **You do not have to push it all the way down—as long as the seed is in the hole.**
9. Place **2 seeds** in the hole on each sponge.
10. When ready, write your team number or name on a sticky note and place your cups under lamps in the designated area. The cups should be arranged 19mL, 42mL, 69mL (left to right). Place your sticky note next to your cups.
11. **Remember that you cannot move the cups again until the last day!** All observations will be made carefully where the cups are set up under the lamps.