

WORKSHOP EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Built by The Home Depot Kids Workshop

SCARECROW PLANTER

Ages 5-12

Picture this...

In your mind, picture the lunch you brought on the first day of school, a warm dinner on a cold winter day, a spring picnic, and a summer barbeque.

As you imagine each meal, are there certain foods that come to mind? List some of your ideas below and try to think especially about the fruits and vegetables that you associate with each season!

Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer

Seasonal Produce...What's that?

Chances are, the reason you think of these fruits and vegetables at different times of the year is because they are *seasonal produce*. ("Produce" is just another word for fresh fruits and vegetables!) When produce is "in season," it means that it grows best during that time of the year. When you eat seasonal produce, you are likely enjoying fruits or vegetables that were grown and picked nearby.



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Can I grow seasonal produce too?

Yes! Especially since you have a Scarecrow Planter that's ready to go! You just first need to learn about what will grow best in your area, because weather and growing conditions are different throughout the country.

To find produce that will grow well in your state, check out seasonalfoodguide.org. Be sure to search for the correct time of year, too. (Produce that grows in the fall may not grow well in the spring!) As you learn about the fruits and vegetables that would grow well in your region this season, use the chart below to take some notes so you can remember what you've learned!



MAKE. CREATE. EXPLORE.



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Seasonal Produce

State: _____ Season: _____

Seasonal produce that I already know I like:	Seasonal produce that I'd like to try:
✓ _____	✓ _____
✓ _____	✓ _____
✓ _____	✓ _____
✓ _____	✓ _____
✓ _____	✓ _____

Planting Prep

Now that you've done your research, follow these steps to get ready to plant:

1. Bring your produce list to your nearest Home Depot store. Visit the Garden Center, take a look through the seeds they have available, and try to find some of the produce that you either know you like or that you'd like to try!
2. Once you've found a few seed packets, read their instructions to see what growing conditions each seed needs.
3. Narrow down your packets to one type of seed that should be able to grow well in your Scarecrow Planter. (But if there are other seeds you would like to try and you have a space in mind where you can grow them, it could be fun to grow these too!)

Ready to Grow

You'll need:

- Your Scarecrow Planter
- Your seeds
- Gardening soil
- Watering can



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Now that you have your seeds, you're ready to plant!

1. Fill your Scarecrow Planter three-quarters of the way full with gardening soil.
2. Read your seed packet to learn how deep to plant your seeds. The packet should also tell you how far apart the seeds should be. You may have room to plant more than one seed in your planter, or you may just have space for one!
3. Place the seed(s) in the soil, following the packet's directions. You should be able to use your finger to make a small hole, and then you can gently cover the hole with soil once the seed has been planted.
4. When your planting is complete, use the watering can to give the soil a sprinkle of water to moisten the seed. Your soil should be neither too wet nor too dry!
5. Review the seed packet instructions again to see what kind of sunlight this produce needs. Then find the perfect spot for your planter!
6. Check on the soil each day and use the watering can to make sure the soil stays moist.
7. In a couple weeks (or within the "germination" time listed on your seed packet) you should see your plant begin to sprout from the soil.
8. Continue to keep an eye on your Scarecrow Planter and take care of your growing plant. Before too long, you and your family should be able to enjoy local, seasonal and fresh produce that you grew yourself!

Show off your seasonal produce using #kidsworkshopexplore to post a picture once your seed has sprouted in your Scarecrow Planter!

