



# MY FIRST GARDEN

**PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE BEGINNING.  
ADULT SUPERVISION IS RECOMMENDED**

## PREPARATION

### Set Up Your Work Area:

Find a flat surface to use as your work area. Cover the area with scrap paper (newspapers or paper towels work well). Have a cup of water nearby to clean your paint brush after applying each color. It is also helpful to have plenty of extra paper towels around to clean up any spills. Lay out all of the materials before you begin. Keep the box nearby so that you can look at the pictures for ideas and inspiration.

### Plan Your Design:

Before you begin painting your garden tin planter and garden markers you may want to sketch your ideas on a piece of paper or use a pencil to make outlines directly on the tin and garden markers.

### STEP 1: Start Painting!

Get creative! Paint scenes or designs on your tin and garden markers! If you make a mistake, use a wet paper towel to wipe it away before your paint dries. The garden markers are supposed to mark where each plant is, so be sure to identify each plant with their name or a picture!

### STEP 2: Let Your Tin and Garden Markers Dry!

After you're finished painting, leave your tin and garden markers to dry overnight. Do not touch the paint until it has completely dried otherwise your design may smear or wipe away.

### STEP 3: Show Off Your Design!

Great job! Now that you're finished decorating your Miracle-Gro® Garden accessories, it's time to plant the seeds!

## TIME TO GET YOUR MIRACLE-GRO® GARDEN GROWING!

### STEP 1:

Place the plastic tray planter inside of the tin planter. Adding this will help your plants to retain water. Then set the coconut fiber pucks into the plastic tray planter and add 3 to 4 cups (710 mL-946 mL) of warm water and watch the coconut fiber pucks expand! Let them soak for at least an hour.

**Note:** For better irrigation of your plant you can add a layer of rocks to the bottom of the plastic tray planter before you put the soil inside.

### STEP 2:

Soak the seeds in a small bowl of water for about 30 minutes before planting them.

**Note:** You may not need to use all of the seeds.

### STEP 3:

Divide your planter into 3 equal sections then using your finger, make 2 holes in each section. Place a few of the same type of seeds in each hole and cover the seeds. Place your decorated garden markers in front of each section for identification.

**Note:** You can cover the container with plastic wrap (not included). This will keep the soil warm and damp longer. If you decide to add the wrap, lay your garden markers in front of the garden to mark which plants are which. Once the seedlings sprout, remove the wrap.



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## STEP 4:

Place your garden in a warm, sunny area. Keep the soil damp until the seeds begin to sprout. The seedlings will require a minimum of 5 hours of sun a day, so make sure you pick a very sunny spot for your Miracle-Gro® garden to grow! Be sure to check your plants daily and if the soil looks dry, lightly water the seedlings.

**Note:** The germination of your seeds will take about 5-14 days depending on seed varieties.

## STEP 5:

Once the seeds start to sprout, continue to check on your plant everyday. If the soil feels too dry you may have to water it again. You should be watering your plants about twice a week, but be careful of over watering. Too much watering is just as harmful to your plants as not watering enough.

## STEP 6:

Your plants will take about 3-4 weeks to grow into a healthy garden. It's important to watch your plant and take care of it every single day. Sunshine and water are very important to your garden!

## STEP 7: Knowing when to harvest your plants.

### • BASIL LEAVES

Basil leaves can be harvested when the leaves are about 1 to 2 inches long. Have an adult help you with pinching or nipping the basil with a scissor. Your plant will continue to grow more tasty herbs for you to enjoy.

### • GREEN BEANS

Green beans should be picked when they are young, before you start to see the seeds in the pod. This is when they are the most delicious.

### • GREEN PEPPERS

Green peppers need some time to grow and ripen; about 60 days from when you planted your seeds. They are best when the pepper is a deep green color.

### What to do once your plants have outgrown your tin:

Transplant your plants into a larger planter, or if the weather allows, transplant the plants into an outdoor garden. Start by pinching off the lower set of leaves. Then, once you've decided where you're transferring your plant, dig a hole deep enough so that the soil is just over the point where you pinched the leaves. Draw a line in the soil around the outer perimeter of the plants growth and dig down into the pot. Gently scoop with a shovel down and allow the plant to come up into your hands. Don't pull the plant by the stem or leaves. Place the plant into the hole you made and pat soil around it.

For best results transplant your plants using Miracle-Gro® Potting Mix and feed as directed with Miracle-Gro® plant food (sold separately).



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