





How to build a Bag Garden

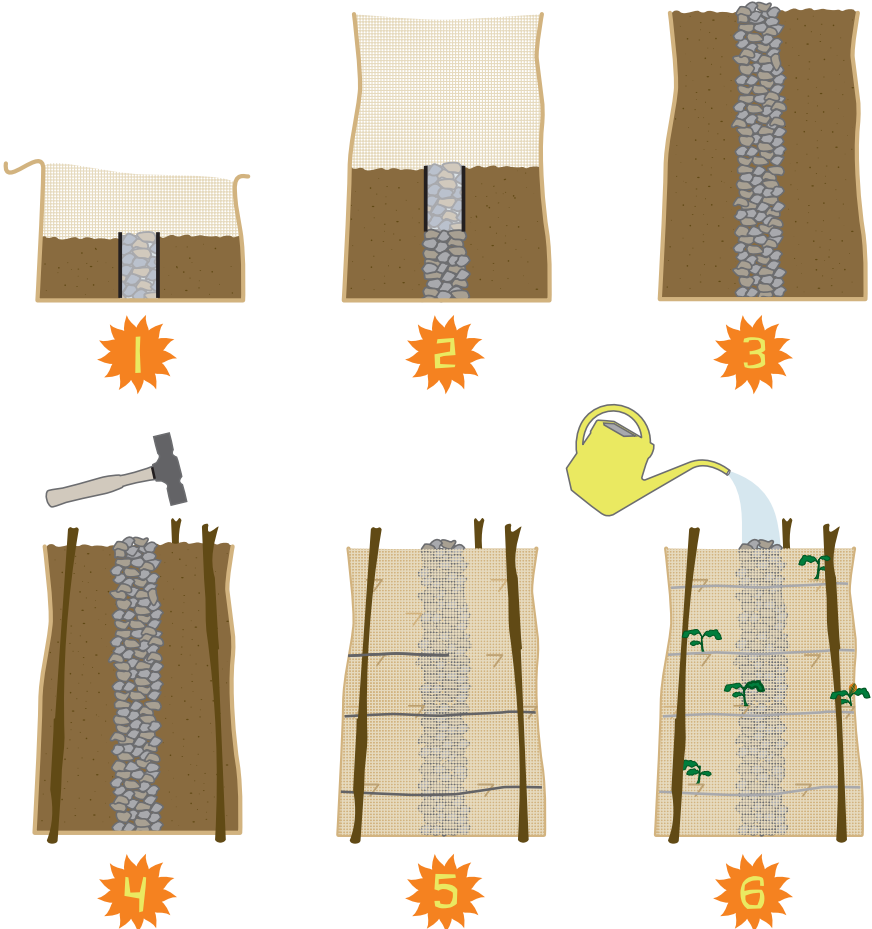


Bag Gardens are great fun to build, and really easy for small hands to help with!

Materials you need before you start:

-  A Hessian sack
-  A large used can or sliced squash bottle of about 12cm or more in diameter, with both ends removed to make a tube - be careful of sharp edges!
-  Some small stones or gravel
-  Mixture of topsoil and composted material, plus some well-rotted animal manure, if you can get it

Six steps to building a Bag Garden



these steps explained overleaf...

Instructions

Start by finding a good spot for your bag, preferably sheltered with plenty of sun, access to water, and as close to your classroom as possible.



Roll down the edges of your bag and place the tube in the bottom. Fill the tube with stones. Put a mixture of soil, compost and manure around the outside of the tube and press in slightly (but not too hard!).



Now remove the tube. This should leave a circle of stones in the middle of the soil mix. Keep repeating step 1 and 2 until...



...your bag is full of soil and you have a full column of stones at the centre. Try and keep the bag upright as you go!



Hammer some stakes into the ground to support the bag.



Using chalk or charcoal, mark out four or five horizontal lines around the bag, equally spaced. Carefully cut some holes in the bag, shaped like a '7' along these lines where you want your plants to go. Don't place them exactly above each other, but give the plants enough room to grow. The holes should be just big enough to get your hand in.




Now you can plant your seeds or seedlings into these holes and at the top of your bag (great for climbers) making sure that they are held in place by the soil.

Water the garden fairly generously at first and then water from above onto the column of stones regularly, preferably with used washing-up water. Use an organic feed or make your own 'plant tea' and pesticide and watch your bag produce some amazing results! (details at www.sendacow.org.uk/africangardens)



 For a lively looking bag, decorate with fabric paints, wool or African-style textiles before you make your garden!

 If you have no-one to look after your bag over the summer holidays, cut it in half horizontally, sew the base up and now you have two small bags that can be lifted into the boot of a car. You can still enter these into the competition as a single bag.

WINNER'S
TIPS

Send a Cow

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Produced and printed locally, on 100% recycled paper.

(By the way, the sack we sent you is completely bio-degradable, so when it's finished with you can cut it up and put it onto the compost heap - and it might find its way into your next Bag Garden!)


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