

Garden Scientists: Plant Growth

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LET'S WATCH OUR PLANTS GROW!

To observe means to look closely and notice details. When we observe plants, we become garden scientists! As scientists, we want to observe plant growth every day. Plants grow slowly, so good observers are patient. Each day shows something new, so each day you visit, you may notice something different.

Observing plant growth helps us become curious while we develop scientific thinking skills. So, let's grab our observation sheets and study the plants. They have a lot to tell us if we pay close attention.

WHAT CAN WE LOOK FOR?

When examining plant growth, use your senses carefully.

- We use our eyes to see different shapes, sizes and colors.
- We use our touch to gently feel the leaves or soil.
- We use our smell to observe flowers and the environment.

Note: Do not taste plants unless supervised and approved.

KEY PLANT PARTS TO OBSERVE

Leaves

- Are there new leaves?
- What color are they?
- What shape are they?
- How many leaves are there?

Stems

- How tall is the plant?
- Is the plant taller than last time?
- Is the stem strong and rigid?
- How thick is the stem?

Flowers or buds

- Do you see buds?
- Has a flower formed?
- Does the flower smell good?
- How large are the buds or flowers?
- How many buds or flowers?

Fruit or seeds

- Is the plant making food that we can eat?
- Are other animals or insects eating the fruit?
- What color is the fruit?
- How large is the fruit?
- Is the fruit tender?
- Has the plant produced seeds?

Roots

- If you can see them, what do they look like?
- Are they thick or skinny?
- Are there a few or many?
- Are they long or in a ball?

Possible changes over time

- New leaves forming
- Plants growing taller
- Leaf color changes
- Flowers blooming or fading
- Fruit development

ASKING GOOD OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

Compare what you see today with what you observed last week.

Open ended questions help us think critically:

- What do you notice about the plant today?
- How has it changed since last time?
- Which plant is the tallest? The shortest?
- What do you think will happen next?

HOW CAN WE CONTINUE TO LET OUR PLANTS GROW?

You are an important helper! Plants need tender love and care.

To care for your plants:

- Water plants.
- Pull weeds with adult supervision.
- Look for insects and diseases.
- Tell an adult if a plant looks sick.
- Keep good records of plant changes and weather.

CONCLUSION

Plant observation turns gardens into outdoor classrooms. Gardens are classrooms, and plants are our teachers. By slowing down and looking closely, we discover how plants grow, change and respond to care. These experiences create lifelong curiosity about nature and agriculture while building science skills.

SEE WORKSHEET ON BACK PAGE



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Garden Observation Sheet: Plant Growth

Plant type	Height	Width	Fruit?	Stem straight & tall?	Soil moist?
			☐	☐	☐

Draw what you saw!

Plant growth stats

Plant name: _____

Planted on: _____

Today is: _____

Last observed: _____

Previous condition:

Healthy ☐ Sick ☐ Needs attention ☐

Today's condition:

Healthy ☐ Sick ☐ Needs attention ☐



Explorer name: _____

Date: _____