



Pat Bordman

Ability to grow dazzles

A seed is a thing of whimsy — carried on a raccoon's fur, tucked under the wing of a bird, lodged in the pads of a dog's paw, stuck to a shoeleather, or borne by the wind landing who knows where. Seeds are so capricious, they dazzle you with their ability to grow anywhere they land.

Inside a baggie? On a blotter? Between cotton balls? On a sponge? Is a seed so eccentric that it will actually sprout under the above conditions? Yes! Fantastic.

A seed is a bundle of fantasy that you and your child can share and watch at-

ter just a bit of preparation.

Gather together the following supplies: a baggie, a piece of paper toweling or napkin about four inch by one inch, a piece of blotter paper, a plastic glass, some cotton balls, a sponge (preferably unused), two small aluminum pans or other small containers and fast growing seeds such as lima bean, radish, or grass seed.

Moisten the toweling and fit it inside the baggie. Then, place four or five seeds along the moistened toweling and close the baggie securely with tape.

Moisten the blotter paper and fit it inside the plastic glass. Place five or six radish seeds between the glass and the blotter paper. Press the blotter paper against the seeds so both are snug against the glass.

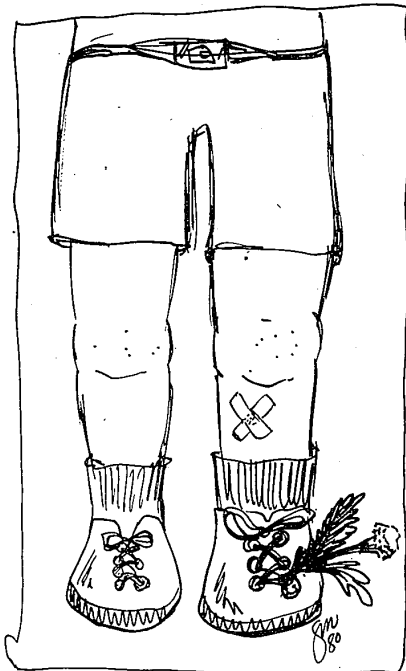
Moisten the cotton balls and place them together in one of the containers. Sprinkle some grass seed over the top of the cotton balls. Moisten the sponge and sprinkle seeds over the top of it. Place the sponge into the other container.

In order to sprout, the seeds need only be kept at room temperature and moistened. Therefore, the only job will be to check them to be sure they stay wet. Add small amounts of water as they dry out.

Plants are like people and have many needs. But, their needs at first are very slight and it can surprise the unsuspecting person how fantastic seeds can be. You will witness the development of the root systems and possibly leafing out if you have only provided them with their barest beginning needs.

Mrs. Bordman welcomes suggestions and comments. Please write her c/o the Observer-Eclectic Newspaper, 36251 Schoolcraft Rd., Livonia 48150.

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Janis Carol Mittler



Ms. Mittler is a Wayne State University graduate. She began her career in interior design at Gorman's, where she has been for the last 13 years. The kind of experience Janis brings to a home or office is hard to find and has helped make her one of our most popular designers. She is at your service, at Gorman's.

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volunteers

The Oakland County Volunteer Bureau, a program of the Volunteer Action Center of United Community Services, has weekly listings of volunteer opportunities.

Further information about these and other volunteer needs at over 200 agencies may be obtained by calling the bureau at 642-7272. Any non-profit organization needing volunteer assistance may also call the bureau.

FAMILY LIVING CLASS LEADERS
Persons with homemaking skills or home economics backgrounds are being sought to volunteer mornings between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Mondays or Thursdays during the upcoming school year at Clinton Valley Center.

AREA REPRESENTATIVE Youth for Understanding, Inc., is seeking volunteers interested in recruiting area families to host international students involved in a six month to one year ex-

change program. Other job duties include monitoring participant involvement, orienting participants and recruiting American students for the program.

PIANISTS Volunteers with piano-playing skills are being recruited to accompany the Troy Senior Community Chorus with their engagements at area nursing homes and other community events. Rehearsals are held in Troy Community Center.

consumer mailbag

Time's right for compost

How do I go about making a compost pile? Should I start it now?

D.S., Livonia

Autumn is the very best time to start your compost pile for use in next summer's garden.

Follow these simple directions: Select a shady, protected area, if possible, to minimize evaporation. If digging is easy, go down as much as 2 to 3 feet.

Keep the soil in a pile next to the compost; you'll need it.

If the soil is rocky, use fencing or build a box above the ground to keep the materials from getting scattered. Compost can also be made in a garbage can, heavy plastic bag, or any closed container.

Mix different kinds of materials in layers. For example, use 5 to 6 inches of leaves, a thin layer of garden scraps and table scraps, a thin layer of dirt, a thin layer of grass clippings, and so on. Every time you add a layer, moisten

with the hose (but do not soak). Add materials and dirt daily.

Every month or so turn the pile with a shovel to mix up the materials. The purpose is to aerate, for air is necessary to help the compost materials decompose.

Consumer Mailbag answers your questions on all consumer and environmental issues. Address mail to Concern, Inc., 1 Northfield Plaza, Troy 48068.

Hi Hopes for 'strokors'

Four seminars for stroke patients and their families will be presented by the Michigan Heart Association beginning at 1:30 p.m. Sept. 23 in Sisson Manor, 1515 Mason, Dearborn. The sessions will be hosted by the Hi Hopes Stroke Club.

"The sessions are planned to be very informal, allowing for free discussion of the problems encountered by both 'strokors' and their families," said Irene Young, coordinator of the club and program chairwoman.

On Sept. 23, Patty Isenberg, psychiatric social worker, will discuss the psychological aspects of stroke, including

depression and how a stroke can affect family relationships.

On Sept. 30, Dr. Roger Morrell, chief of neurology at the VA Medical Center, will discuss what a stroke is and behavior changes it may cause.

On Oct. 7, Joe Lippo, manager of physical therapy at Wyandotte General Hospital, will discuss the physical aspects of stroke and the potential for physical rehabilitation.

On Oct. 15, Raphael Adler, director of speech pathology at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac, will discuss aphasia, the speech difficulties which are common following a stroke.

"The sessions are free," said Morrell, chairman of the Michigan Heart Association stroke committee, "and we've planned them to try to draw as many 'strokors' and their families as possible."

"They're being held in the afternoon because it's often easier for 'strokors' to attend daytime functions."

For more information on the weekly stroke seminars, and the locations of 21 stroke clubs throughout the metropolitan area and the state, contact Jean Mayer, program consultant, Michigan Heart Association, P.O. Box LV 160, Southfield, or call 557-9508.

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