

Amazing Gardens

Spring is a good time to plant a garden, but how much do you know about how they grow? Here are some links to sites and videos that will help you learn more about plants and gardens.

1. What is the largest vegetable in the world?

At Seed to Feed Me <http://bit.ly/10CD4UG> you can see pictures of the largest fruit and vegetables in the world, like a 100 pound head of lettuce, a 268 lb watermelon, or a 1689 lb pumpkin that weighs as much as polar bear!

2. What is the oldest living seed in the world? At

National Geographic <http://bit.ly/XstbxC> you can learn about some 32,000 year old seeds found buried beneath the ice in Siberia, that were still alive. When they planted, they grew into delicate white flowers.

3. What's the difference between an annual and a perennial? At the Permaculture Institute <http://bit.ly/10RIUTK>

you'll learn that nearly all garden plants, like tomatoes, carrots and pumpkins are annuals, meaning they die after one season. Perennials, like potatoes, rhubarb and asparagus, come back year after year.

4. How long does it take to grow a radish, and how deep do you plant the seed?

At Cornell University's vegetable growing guide <http://bit.ly/ZeOjyK> you can look up specific seeds and learn that radishes grow in about 30 days, but you'll need 70 days for a zucchini. You can find specific facts about almost any seed you might plant in your garden, just in case you lose the instructions on the seed packet.

APPLICATION

Make a rainbarrel! Did you know that over 600 gallons of water falls on a 1000 square foot roof during a typical storm? Every drop could be used to water your carrots. Here's are step by step instructions on how to make a rain barrel. Here are the instructions in PDF form: http://www.hws.edu/fli/pdf/rain_barrel_manuel.pdf

Grow a flower in a cup- at <http://www.kidsgardening.org/node/3914> you will find everything you need to plant your own seed in a cup. You'll need a styrofoam cup with a small hole in the center. Easy flowers are marigolds or pansies; easy vegetables are corn or watermelon, which will sprout in about 5 days.



This head of lettuce (above) weighs over 100 pounds, and the flower (below) grew from seeds that are over 32,000 years old.



LittleClickers is made possible by
Safe, fun Internet explorations for children
COMPUTER EXPLORERS

LittleClickers is brought to you by Computer Explorers, who is offering camps on programming. Visit www.computerexplorers.com to learn more. The web-based (html) version of this page is at

<http://www.littleclickers.com> with live links, plus a place to report any errors. Note that CTR and COMPUTER EXPLORERS do not have commercial interests in the sites listed on this page. Librarians and teachers are permitted to copy this page for non-profit use. To suggest a future topic or to report a bad link, please contact the editor, Warren Buckleitner [WB] warren@childrenstech.com, or the web editor, Megan Billitti [MB] megan@childrenstech.com; or call 908-284-0404 (9 - 3 PM, EST).

Thanks to Megan and Sarah B. for suggestions for this month's column.



QUIZ: Are these pests or friends?

Check all the bugs that are BAD for your garden.

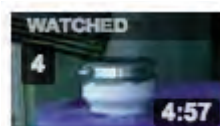
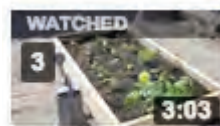
- Honeybee
- Earthworms
- Ladybugs
- Parasitic Wasp
- Praying Mantis

The answer? All are friends, and not pests. Not all bugs are good however. At <http://www.garden.org/pestlibrary> you can see a list of the pests, and at [OrganicGardening.com](http://www.OrganicGardening.com) or <http://bit.ly/10K3jve> you can learn how earthworms help your garden's soil.



YouTube Gardening

Here are 19 videos about gardening <http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLcBVHzUUEKwluJt3g8CEzf1SeMz2Agzq7>



Interact with this page online, at <http://www.LittleClickers.com/gardening>