



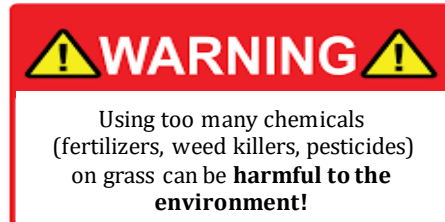
Grass Seed in a Cup

Grow some grass seed in a cup and learn all about turf farming.



Large grassy areas benefit the environment in many ways. Unlike hard surfaces, lawn grass can:

- improve soil structure allowing rain to soak in.
- clean the air. Like all plants, grass traps carbon dioxide gas and produces oxygen.
- reduce erosion caused by wind and water.
- absorb sound creating a quieter environment.
- reduce the temperature and help to cool the air.
- filter dust, smoke, and pollution from the air.
- provide a habitat for wildlife.



To watch a video about turf farming click [here](https://tinyurl.com/cw76pp73).

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Turf farms specialize in growing different types of grasses which are cut into pieces called **sod**. It takes about one year for farmers to prepare the soil, plant the seeds, care for, and harvest the grass. Laying down sod is a fast way to establish a large grassy area. Sod is often used for lawns, golf courses, and sports stadiums.



one piece of sod



harvesting sod



one pallet of sod



laying sod

Grow Grass Seed in a Cup

This activity can get messy and is best done outside!

You will need:

a plastic cup, a permanent marker, soil, grass seed, spray bottle of water, scissors

Directions:

1. Draw a face on the plastic cup using a permanent marker.
2. Fill the cup with soil. Leave about one inch of space at the top.
3. Sprinkle grass seed over the soil. Cover the soil since not all of it will grow.
4. Sprinkle soil over the grass seed to cover it up. There should be about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of space at the top of the cup.
5. Spray water until the soil is damp. Do this every day but don't use too much water.
6. Wait for your grass to sprout. It can take between 7 and 21 days, depending on the type of seed you used.
7. When your grass gets long enough, give your Grass Guy or Gal a haircut!



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