Make Your Own Garden in a Box

Camp

Does your house have a garden? Maybe you've seen one in your community growing vegetables, flowers and spices alike! Now, it's your turn to create your own personal garden. Transform a shoebox into a busy little garden with flowers, plants and tiny bugs and critters.

Materials:

- 1 shoebox
- Tape
- Garbage bag/plastic bag
- Scissors
- Potting soil
- Packet of seeds/seedlings**
- An assortment of art supplies, such as paint, markers or stickers

Instructions:

1. Make sure your shoebox is structurally sound. If you find that your box has been wet or has any tears, discard it and find another!

2. Tape over the seams of the bottom of the box to reinforce it.

3. Fit a small trash bag or plastic bag into the box, making sure that it fits into the corners of the box. Tape the top of the bag to the outside of the box to secure it. If you want to decorate the outside of the shoebox with paint, stickers, etc. here's your chance!

4. Poke holes in the bag at the bottom and through the box at the bottom. These holes will allow excess water to drain from the soil. Put a hole every few inches over the entire bottom surface of the shoebox.

5. Fill the box with potting soil, within 1 inch of the top of the box. Tap the box to settle the soil. Place the box in a spot where it will get sunlight for at least six hours each day. Water the soil.

6. Plant seeds or seedlings in the box according to the package directions.

7. Water the box garden regularly. Container gardens dry out faster than gardens in the yard, and often need watering more than once a day, especially in the hottest parts of the summer.

*Warnings**

- Keep in mind that most shoe boxes aren't very deep, so you'll need to choose items that don't need a lot of growing space. Lettuce, petite carrots and herbs are good options.

- Take care when watering the plants so you don't splash water on the ground around the boxes. This can soften the cardboard around the base of the box and cause it to collapse on itself.