



CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

Transplanting

Purpose:

This activity will provide practice in distinguishing by texture and by scent. It will also reinforce systematic organization of supplies to prep for activity.

Description:

Learn to move a plant from one container into another.

Time required: 45 minutes

Materials:

1 tray per person

1 large spoon or scoop per person

1 set of measuring spoons per person

Flats without holes

Bucket of soilless mix

2 containers/person; containers should have textures that are notably different from each other

Small transplants; 2 varieties with distinctive fragrance or aroma

Slow-release fertilizer

Watering bulbs

Plant labels, pre-labeled with names of plant; use 2 different textures of label, if possible

Permanent markers



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Instructions:

1. Begin with trays on table, one at each place. On each tray place the following materials in the central area: spoon or scoop; set of measuring spoons; two containers with notably different textures; spray bulbs
2. Spend some time acquainting participants with each plant. Pass the plant around, describe any interesting features. Teach how to bruise leaves to release aroma. Review until everyone knows the name of each plant and can tell one from the other.
3. Lead participants through organizing materials on their workspace (tray).
 - Hand out spoons or scoops by placing one in the center of each person's tray. Direct them to place it in the upper left-hand corner.
 - Hand out containers by stacking them (if possible) and placing the stack in the center of tray. Direct participants to place the smooth one on the left side and the rough one on the right side of the tray. (Use other descriptors as they apply)
 - Place the spray bulbs on each tray in the center. Direct participants to put it in the upper right-hand corner.
 - Place the measuring spoons in center of trays. Direct participants to place them at the top center of tray.
 - Hand out plants by placing them both in center of tray. Direct participants to place X plant beside the smooth container and Y plant beside the rough container.
Check each for accuracy
4. Now place soilless mix in flats; one between two participants to share.
5. Direct participants to wet the soil to dampness, but not over-wet.



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6. While they are watering the soil, go to each participant with a large-mouthed container of fertilizer. Have each student measure out 1 tablespoon and sprinkle it onto the soil in the flat to mix in with water.
7. Direct participants to use a spoon or scoop to load the soil mix into containers to the top lightly (do not pack).
8. Use fingers to make a planting hole in the center of the container by gently pressing soil towards sides.
9. Train in how to remove the plant from the plastic cell or pot without harming it:
 - Holding the pot in one hand, squeeze gently all around the pot with the other hand to loosen.
 - Place one hand over the top of pot so that the stem of the plant emerges between two fingers.
 - Tip the plant out of the pot, catching it in a hand where the stem goes.
 - Gently stroke the roots all around to loosen them,
 - Carefully turn the plant right side up while placing the roots into the planting hole.
10. Check to be sure the soil surface around the stem matches the soil surface in the container. Adjust the depth of the plant if necessary.
11. Use the spoon, the scoop, or fingers to add soil around the plant until it is even and about ½" below the top edge of the container.
12. Use the spray bulb to water until water comes through drainage holes (do this on the tray or with a saucer under the plant).



CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

13. Pass out labels, one type at a time so that they can be put in the correct plant. Help write the person's name on the back of the label.
14. Participants should assist with cleanup.