

- ♦ **What is Compost made from?**

Some one will always say the rubbish heap at the bottom of the garden (explain this one to them).

Soil, Peat, Coir, Grit, Sand, Bark, Perlite, Food, Polystyrene Beads or Vermiculite.

Have samples of as many of the above as possible, explain their uses, allow hands-on contact.

- ♦ **Show how to make 4.5 litres of Potting Compost.**

Using a 10 litre bucket with clip on lid, fill with 3.5 litres of Peat, let the group see it. Add 0.5 litres of grit and 0.5 litres of perlite plus the necessary trace elements, replace lid.

Select a child to shake it up, remove lid show the group finished potting compost.

Advise how wet to make it and to leave standing for 24 hours, before use.

Leave the compost with the group for future use.

Explain about Seed or Cutting Compost made with silver sand.

- ♦ **What is a Propagator? Draw from the group**

A Greenhouse, Cold Frame, Electrical Heated Clear Box, Coffee Jar, Plastic Bag and Pot, Lemonade Bottle, Empty Sweet Jar or any Clear Plastic Food Container.

Explain; a small clear confined area used for propagating plants in.

- ♦ **Show how to make a Propagator from a two litre Lemonade or Spring Water Bottle.**

Prearrange the collection of clear two litre lemonade or water bottles without the children knowing what they are for, allow each child to make a propagator after your demonstration.

- ♦ **Preparation at Home, Fill 6cm dwarf pots with seed compost, soak & leave overnight**

Explain the above preparation and why not to use straight away?

Give each child a 6cm dwarf pot, already filled and soaked, place in base of lemonade bottle propagator.

- ♦ **Show how to take Cuttings.**

Demonstrate how and what size cutting you would like them to take, pass them around allow hands on, touch, feel and see.

Items required; Rooting Powder, Dibble or Pencil, Scissors, Marker Pen, Labels and Large Established Plants **No knives to be used in schools**, explain the advantages of using a sharp knife, but for use by adults only.

Give each child 5 long cuttings, allow them to trim down to the required length and plant in their propagator, make out label name & date replace lid on propagator.

- ♦ **Where should we keep the propagator?**

In a Good Light Position but, **Not in Direct Sunlight, Why?**

Give a quarter turn each day, use North, East, South, West using the label as the pointer. Use this as a learning curve to discover North.

- ♦ **Will I need to water my Cuttings in the Propagator?**

No the condensation will form and run back into the compost and keep it moist. Show a one made earlier, condensation and all.

- ♦ **How long will it take the cuttings to grow their own roots?**

Three to four weeks, depends upon the time of year.