

DIY Bottle Growing SYSTEM

Take Action for Earth! The Bottle Growing System (BGS) is a low-cost growing system ideal for growing native plants. Made from recycled plastic bottles, BGSs are easy to build, use, and can be cleaned and reused for multiple years.

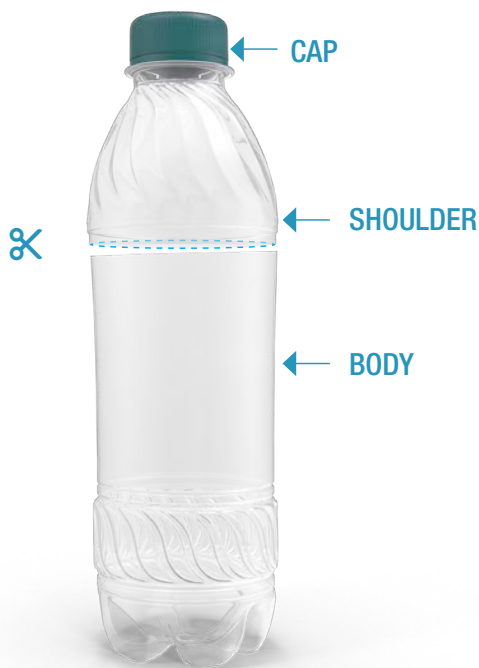
MATERIALS

SIZE OF BOTTLE	NUMBER OF PLANTS	NUMBER OF PELLETS
16.9 oz	4	8
24–33 oz	8	12
2 Liter	12	16

Only use native plant seeds. Spreading exotic or invasive seeds could harm the natural environment. Consult the local nursery for native seed mixes.

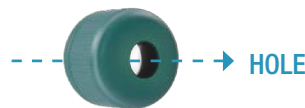
MATERIALS

- 1 water or soda bottle
- 1 bottle cap
- Wicking material (cotton or polyester cord or thick string)
- Native seeds
- Planting medium (a soil-less seed starter mixture)
- Fertilizer: solid pellets (Osmocote™) — added during planting
- Water



BOTTLE CONSTRUCTION

- 1 REMOVE LABEL AND CUT**
 Cut bottle 1 cm below the shoulder.
- 2 POKE OR DRILL HOLE IN BOTTLE CAP**
 Alternatively, rubberband several layers of aluminum foil across the opening and poke hole in foil.
- 3 INSERT WICK THROUGH CAP**
 Thread a thoroughly wet wick strip through bottle top, invert top and set into base. Wick should reach bottom of reservoir and thread loosely through cap (or aluminum foil). *Tip: to be effective, the wick should run up into soil, not be plastered along a side of the bottle and not extend above the soil.*
- 4 FILL RESERVOIR WITH WATER**
 Don't fill water past the water line, allow some room for air in the container.



PLANTING THE SEEDS

5 PREP THE SOIL

Moisten the potting mix if needed and add growing mixture until $\frac{1}{4}$ full.

Tip: soil consistency should be moist enough to hold a loose ball if compressed.

6 ADD PELLETS

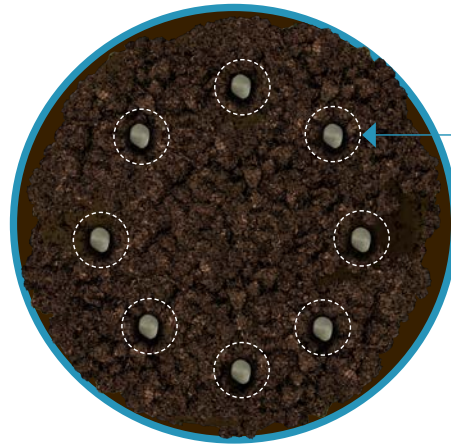
Scatter pellets on the surface of the soil then fill with additional soil until full. Lightly sprinkle water over the surface until water drips from the wick. The soil mix may drop $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch after watering.

7 PLACE SEEDS

Place seeds, evenly spaced, on top of the soil in a circle that is near the edge of the bottle. Cover seeds with a layer of vermiculite or soil.

8 PUT TOGETHER

Place the bottle on its water reservoir, and tape the shoulder to the reservoir to keep them together.



PLACEMENT OF SEEDS IN BGS

WATCH YOUR PLANTS GROW!

Place BGS near natural light. *Tip: If algae starts to growing in the reservoir, rinse and clean out once a week to prevent build up.*

