

WISCONSIN FAST PLANTS PROGRAM



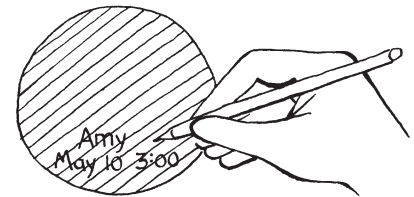
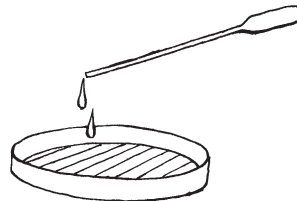
Observing Germination with Wisconsin Fast Plants

Germinating and growing young seedlings on paper towels in a Petri dish

1. From a paper towel or a piece of filter paper, cut a circle 8.5 cm in diameter to fit in the cover (larger half) of a Petri dish. With a pencil, label the bottom of the paper circle with your name, the date and the time.

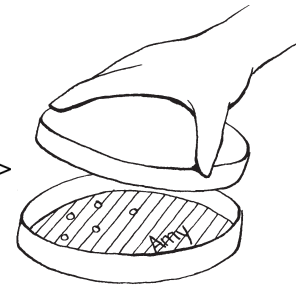


2. Moisten the paper circle in the Petri dish with an eyedropper.



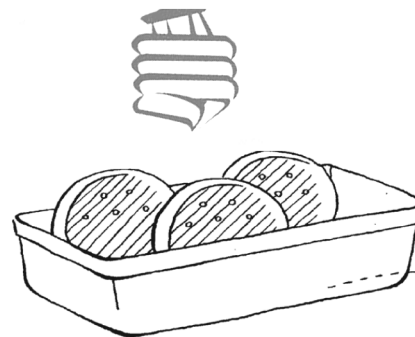
3. Place 20–25 Wisconsin Fast Plants™ seeds on the paper circle arranged evenly and then cover with the bottom (smaller half) of the Petri dish.

SEEDS ARE PLACED TOWARD THE TOP -->



4. Place the Petri dish at a steep angle (80°–90°) in shallow water in a tray so that the bottom two centimeters of the paper is below the water's surface. (Note: seedlings will orient their roots and shoots by responding to gravity, so standing the Petri dish on edge will assure they grow straight along the paper towel.) Be sure the water is just soaking the paper towel which will wick water to the seeds. If seeds are under water they may die.

5. Set the experiment in a warm location approximately 10 centimeters under a fluorescent light source (optimum temperature: 65–80°F). Check the water level each day to be sure the paper circle stays wet.



WATER LEVEL
(the paper towel
will wick water up
up to the seeds)

6. On your individual data sheet record the day, time, and initial environmental conditions for the experiment.

Over the next 3–4 days carefully observe the germinating seed and seedlings.

For more information about growing and learning with Wisconsin Fast Plants visit the Fast Plants Program of UW-Madison at www.fastplants.org

