

Self-Watering Containers From Recycled Soda Bottles

by Shirley Bovshow "Eden Maker - See more at: <http://edenmakersblog.com/?p=4348#sthash.C7BiYf3E.dpuf>

Materials for Soda Bottle Planters

Gather the following materials:

Plastic Soda bottle- label removed, washed and dried

Cutting blade and scissors

Felt material

Potting Soil

Seeds or plants in small 4" containers

Decorative tape

Decoupage solution/ thinned PVA glue

Foam brushes

Art work cut from magazines, seed packets, gift wrap, tissue, napkins or other source



Instructions

1. Mark a ring around your bottle about two thirds of the way down.
2. Start cutting the bottle using your blade and finish with sharp scissors.
3. Take the upper section of the bottle, (the part with the neck) and pierce with blade to create drain holes. (Remember, this part of the bottle will be turned upside down and inserted into the bottom half of the bottle.)
4. Take a small piece of felt material and shove it into the bottle opening so that it protrudes out of the hole a little but is secure and won't come out. The felt material will act as a wick and absorb water into the bottle and move it to the plant roots.
5. Fill the upper section of the bottle with lightweight potting soil-(the one you just cut drain holes into and placed felt material) and insert inside the bottom half of the bottle. The felt strip should make contact with the bottom of the bottle.
6. Plant seeds or a small plant from a 4" container into the soil.
7. Water, the "customary" way by adding water from the top of the plant.
8. Excess water will drain through the drain holes and fill the reservoir. As your plant needs water, it will draw water up from the bottom of the planter.
9. In about a week or so, the plant may need to be watered again as indicated by an empty reservoir. Check by lifting the planter. If it feels lighter than usual, it may be time to fill the reservoir with water again.
10. Decorate your self-watering container with stickers, decorative tape or decoupage. This is a great art project for the kids!