

Name: _____ Class: _____

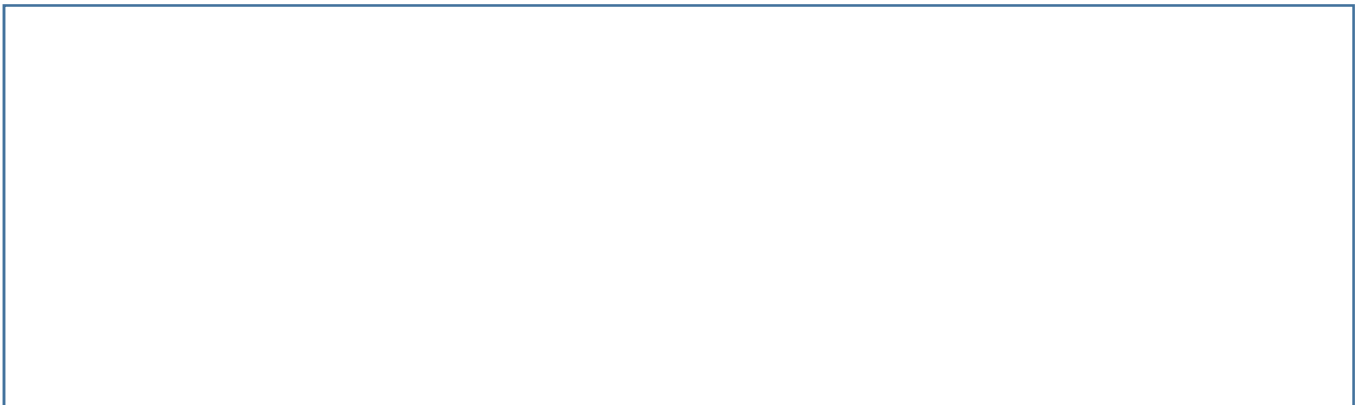
Seed Selection and Germination Activity

Selecting Seeds: By yourself or in a small group, study a seed catalog to learn more about the plants that you may want to grow. There are several online options in the chart below to help you pick one. Investigate the topics on this sheet. Once you have completed your research, you may want to work with your instructor on ordering this type of plant and using it with the hydroponic system. Note that some plants are not very conducive for hydroponics, so be selective in your seed choices.

SEED SELECTION:

Seed to Research: _____

Specifications on your seed/plant: (Tell as much information on it as possible. Height, width, grow temperature, growing information, best harvest times, length of growth time, growing tips, etc.)



Picture or drawing of your full-grown seed:



Seed Company Research Options:

1. Johnny's Selected Seeds: www.johnnyseeds.com
2. Seed Savers Exchange: www.seedsavers.org
3. Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds: www.rareseeds.com
4. Burpee Seeds and Plants: www.burpee.com
5. Territorial Seed Company: www.territorialseed.com
6. Seeds of Change: www.seedsofchange.com
7. Ferry-Morse Seed Company: www.ferrymorse.com
8. Southern Exposure Seed Exchange: www.southernexposure.com
9. High Mowing Organic Seeds: www.highmowingseeds.com
10. Fedco Seeds: www.fedcoseeds.com
11. Nichols Garden Nursery: www.nicholsgardennursery.com/store
12. Botanical Interests: www.botanicalinterests.com
13. Renee's Garden Seeds: www.reneesgarden.com
14. Peaceful Valley Farm & Garden Supply: www.groworganic.com

Seed Selection and Germination Activity

RESEARCH EXAMPLES: Below are several examples of the best seeds to grow using a hydroponic system. Use these examples to lead you to the best seeds to research and grow with your hydroponic systems.

Arugula

Lettuce

Basil

Chives

Fennel

Dill

Cucumbers

Tomatoes

Green/Sweet
Peppers

Peas

Strawberries

Eggplant

Radishes

Cabbage

Kale

Seed Selection and Germination Activity

Your teacher or leader should have seeds for the crops that you will be planting. If the seeds are not the ones you researched, that is fine. The importance of this activity is to learn the seed germination process and to start to grow your plants. Learn by doing!

INSTRUCTIONS:

Prepare Rockwool

- The seeds will be started in blocks or cubes of an insulation called rockwool. Rockwool holds moisture well, fits into the openings of the hydroponic baskets, and does not rot or break down easily.

Add Water

- Soak the cubes of rockwool in water for 15 minutes to 2 hours. Drain the rockwool. If there is excess water, shake the cubes out, but never squeeze them. Once this is done, put about 1 inch of water into the germination tray where the rockwool will be located.

Plant Seed

- Make a depression in the top of the rockwool. Place one seed in each cube of rockwool that you decide to plant.

Cover Tray

- Cover the tray and place in a warm, dimly lit location like a windowsill or a shelf in the hydroponics system. Keep the cover on tight and maintain about 1 inch of water in the germination tray. Check the rockwool daily and mist the seeds/seedlings with a mister when the top of the rockwool dries out.

Check for Growth

- Once roots emerge out of the rockwool, it is time to put them into the hydroponics system. This can take 5 -10 days, but do read the seed package, as time will vary from species to species.