

Lesson Plan for Ag Day – Nursery

Overview

Third grade students are invited to the park to learn more about farming. HMGA has a station where Hanover Master Gardeners present a lesson on growing plants. Some props are available and we borrow plants from Sandy's Plants. The actual talking points may vary a bit depending on the plants available. There will be an instructor and several helpers. The lesson should take no more than about 20 minutes.

Anyone working on a project involving youth must have completed the forms required for Working with Youth. See VMS for most current forms.

Introduction

The instructor shows the cradle and asks what room in a house you might find it. Students should say a nursery and the instructor can say that plants also need a nurse to begin their growth. This nurse for plants is often a greenhouse. A greenhouse is like a nurse where we can control air temperature, air circulation, water and nutrients (the food a plant needs to grow).

Propagation (define word)

- Plants can be grown in many different ways. One of the most common is seeds.
 - Show pictures of seeds sprouting. It's hard to believe that these small seeds are able to produce such nice plants. Each seed contains the food it needs to get started. Once the roots develop the plant can get additional food from the soil or fertilizer provided by the grower.
 - One of our volunteers usually brings a two liter bottle with seeds sprouting to show the students
 - Helpers pass out seed cards. Ask – Can you identify the different seeds?
- Some plants send out root runners to make more plants. Show bag with runners and roots for something like mint. Helpers can pass around some bags for the students to see. (Or use picture cards.)
- Other plants propagate by dividing a section of the plant such as hens and chickens. Show example and/or picture cards.

Types of Plants (show examples of each as available)

- Annuals – (lettuce, marigolds) – need to be planted every year
- Perennials – (daylily, iris) – will come back each year if the conditions are good
- Herbs – (parsley, lemon balm, mint) – useful plants for seasoning
- Ground covers – (periwinkle, sedum) – can cover bare patches in flower gardens

Props

- Cradle – stored in shed
- Seed cards – laminated cards with several different seeds for students to identify – in Ag Day box in shed
- Plants – borrowed from Sandy's Plants – 4-5 each of 5-6 different plants
- Propagation pictures – in Ag Day box in shed