

# Seed and Transplant Spacing Practice

Grade Levels: PreK-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

## Lesson Summary

Before your students get out into the garden, use this lesson to practice with your students so that they are accustomed to working in the soil and spacing out seeds appropriately. This is a great activity for the winter time, when it is too cold to get outside into the garden.

## Objectives:

- Students will practice planting seeds in a straight line.
- Students will practice taking their time planting one seed at a time.
- Students will practice how to correctly space plant seeds and transplants.

## Tools You'll Need:

- Garden Bin
- Carrot, radish and pea seeds
- Beads (using instead of seeds)
- Transplants
- 4x4 Brown felt
- Trowel
- Cultivator
- Seed spacing ruler

## Procedure

Stand in front of the classroom. Show and explain the purpose of each garden tool.

- *Trowel* - breaks up soil and digs holes
- *Cultivator*- breaks up soil

Garden tools can be sharp and should be used carefully, so we don't hurt our friends with them

Before planting in the garden the soil should be turned, free of big clumps and evenly, smoothed out. Tell students that their hands can be used as a garden tools. Using the tips of your fingers draw a  $\frac{1}{4}$  deep line across the garden bin. Straight lines keep the seeds and plants organized so you can decide what is a vegetable and a weed. Repeat with other students.

After students, have had turns practicing drawing lines, smooth out soil and draw two  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch deep lines at least 6 inches apart.

Now the garden is ready for the seeds!

## Practice Sowing Seeds

There are different varieties of seeds. Some are big and others are small. Show the students the different containers of seeds. Tell them it's important to take your time planting because all seeds



need space and should not be touching. If seeds do not have enough space to grow seeds won't have room to grow roots, stems and leaves and flower.

1. Lay down the seed planting ruler over the first line
2. Point to the first hole, and place a seed in hole
3. Pointing to the next hole, have a student place seed in that hole
4. Each student should take a turn placing a seed in a hole. When finished with first row move ruler to the second line continue planting down the second row.
5. Pick up the ruler and point out the spaces between each seed.

Congratulate your students for planting their seeds in a straight and evenly spaced line!

Pick out beads and smooth out the soil.

### Practice Planting Transplants

Just like seeds, transplants need to be planted with plenty of space. Planting transplants too close together

- Crowds the plant, keeping them from developing the plant parts
- Plants must compete for sun and water

Place roots in the hole, then cover with soil. Plant the second transplant 15 inches apart. Show the students the amount of space spinach transplants need to grow.

Allow the students a chance to practice digging a hole with their hand then plant their transplant.

Congratulate the students for correctly planting the seeds and transplants.

### **Wrap Up Review Questions:**

Why is it important to plant your seeds and transplants in straight lines?

- *Plant in straight lines to remember where your plants are*
- *Distinguish between a weed or a vegetable*

Why is it important to plant seeds one at a time?

- *Make sure seeds are not touching*
- *Makes sure seed are evenly spaced*

Why is it important to keep space between seeds and plants?

- *Enough room to grow their roots, stem, leaves and flowers*
- *Won't compete for sun and water*

