Homemade Chia Pets

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Clay Trials

- Originally wanted to try new/easier types of materials than terra cotta (what actual chia pets are made of)
- Tried two brands of air dry clay (Crayola, Delight)
  - When I tried to wet the seeds, the clays became soft again
- Tried one type of clay baked at 275°F, didn't retain any water, seeds never grew
- Finally ordered terra cotta clay on Amazon prime
  - Also bakes at 275°C, 15 min. per quarter inch thickness
  - Retains water much better
Seed Testing

- Grass Seed from Marcia
  - Was the most accessible, didn’t have to spend money
  - Never started sprouting

- Chia Seeds from Greenstar
  - Same as chia seeds used in real Chia Pets
  - Instructions on how to grow chia pets readily available online
  - Sprout and grow very quickly

- Alfalfa Seeds from Greenstar
  - Instructions available online
  - Wanted some diversity, not to completely copy Chia Pets
  - Sprout and grow very quickly
Other Issues

- Contradictory instructions online
  - How long to soak seeds
  - How often to spray seeds
  - Etc.
- Burlap: could help to hold water
  - Couldn’t get it to lay flat enough
In the end...

- Chia seeds worked better than alfalfa!
  - Soaked the seeds in water for 30 minutes
  - Placed soaked seeds on (baked) clay, let dry on for one day
  - Began to spray twice/day, left covered with a “tented” plastic bag between sprayings
  - Sprouted in ~3 days

- Alfalfa sprouts worked?
  - I tried to put the seeds into grooves in the clay to prevent them from falling out
    - Actually prevented the seeds from sprouting in the correct direction
  - Did sprout a little bit
Alfalfa vs. Chia

- I found different methods (online) for sprouting each
- Alfalfa seeds soaked for 12 hours in the dark, then I put them onto the terracotta figure
  - Maybe it didn’t work because I tried to put the seeds into grooves so they wouldn’t fall off
- Had the clay in a dish with a low level of water so it could absorb through the clay to the seeds
- Kept clay with seeds in the dark for a few days, no sprouting
- Moved it to the light, some sprouting, not as good as chia