



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 terra cotta 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

