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Grass Seed Patterns

In crop art and creative mowing the plant materials are cut to different lengths, bent or suppressed in such a way to reveal a pattern. These patterns can be as simple as stripes or a checkerboard or as elaborate as portraits. It's difficult to simulate the cutting and bending techniques on a small scale but sowing varieties of the same plant with slight color and texture variations in a patterned succession can yield similar results.

Objectives

- Simulate crop art and creative mowing techniques by creating grass patterns indoors.
- Try out ideas for projects like green carpets and crop art on a small scale.
- Get to know grass and the many colors and textures its different varieties possess.

Materials

- A shallow, square or rectangular container
- Potting soil
- Two to Four varieties of grass seed with contrasting color and texture qualities
- Ruler
- Popsicle sticks
- Glue (tacky glue or a hot glue gun)
- String
- Spray bottle for water.

Time Required

60 minutes

Directions

Sometimes it's hard to believe how many different types of turfgrass there are! Most garden centers sell blends that combine several varieties to meet your site needs such as shade or dull sun, drought tolerant or wet areas. It may be tricky to find a single variety but it's worth the effort in order to get to know the subtle differences in color and texture different varieties can have. There are 12

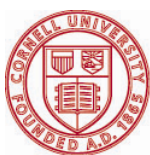
varieties of Kentucky Blue Grass alone and over 250 varieties of perennial rye grass.

1. Decide on your pattern – striped, checkerboard, abstract. For these instructions we'll use a striped pattern.
2. Using a ruler measure and mark each outer long side of the container in at least 4 equal segments.
3. Using tacky glue or a hot glue gun, attach Popsicle sticks to each of the marks, on both sides of the container.
4. Cut string to length and tie between popsicle sticks to that string is taught and as close to the soil as possible.
5. If you have more than one variety of seed, carefully sow within the boundaries of each stripe, alternating each variety as you go.
6. If you aren't able to find more than one variety of seed, carefully sow every other section now. Wait 3-7 days before carefully sowing the remaining sections with the same variety of seed.
7. Keep evenly moist by misting once or twice daily as needed.

Grass Varieties and Their Characteristics

Variety	Color	Texture
Perennial Ryegrass		Coarse
Annual Ryegrass		Coarse
Kentucky Bluegrass		Fine
Creeping Red Fescue		Fine
Meadow Fescue		Coarse
Bent Grass		Fine
Baron	Dark, bluish-Green	
Victa	Dark, deep blue-green	Medium-Fine
Bania Grass	Light green	

You can create the same sorts of patterns on outdoor lawns by utilizing bending and mowing techniques. It's the same process groundskeepers use to create the patterns on professional baseball fields.



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