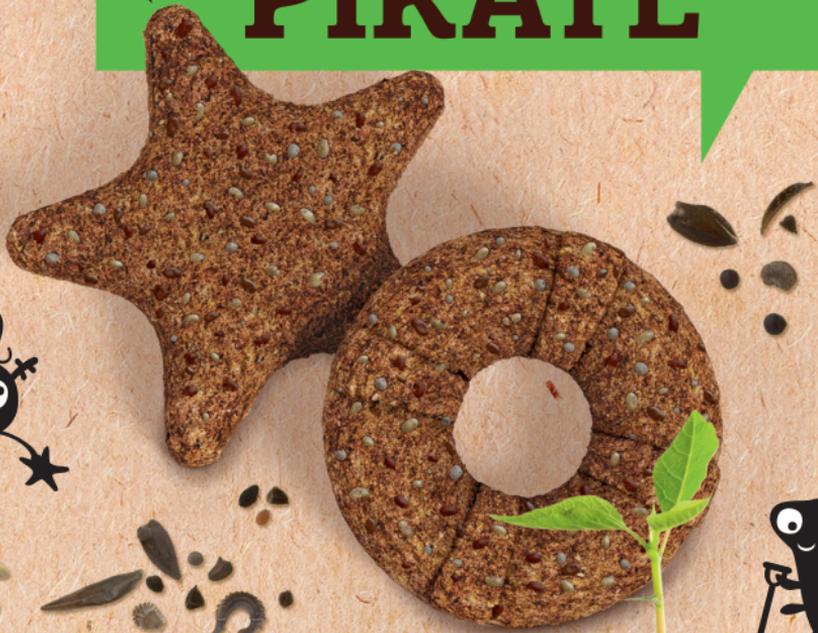




**GEEK
& CO.
CRAFTS!**

INSTRUCTION MANUAL

GaRDEN PIRATE



THAMES & KOSMOS

Warning.

Not suitable for children under 8 years. For use under adult supervision. Read the instructions before use, follow them and keep them for reference.

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SAFETY INFORMATION

WARNING.

Not suitable for children under 3 years of age. There is a risk of choking due to small parts that may be swallowed or inhaled. Save the packaging and instructions. They contain important information.

Safety rules for handling plaster

- Keep younger children under the specified age limit and animals away from the activity area.
- Store chemical toys out of reach of young children.
- Wash hands after carrying out activities.
- Clean all equipment after use.
- Do not use any equipment which has not been supplied with the set or recommended in the instructions for use.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke in the activity area.
- Do not place the material in the mouth.
- Do not inhale dust or powder.
- Do not apply to the body.

First Aid Information

In case of eye contact: Wash out eye with plenty of water, holding eye open. Seek immediate medical advice.

If swallowed: Wash out mouth with water, drink some fresh water. Do not induce vomiting. Seek immediate medical advice.

In case of doubt seek medical advice without delay: Take the chemical and/or product together with the container with you.

In case of injury always seek medical advice.

Dear Parents,

This kit will let children dive into the world of guerrilla gardening and make all kinds of seed bombs. Even though working with plaster is not particularly dangerous, you should offer your support to your child and provide help and advice in this new hobby.

Read and follow these instructions, the safety rules and the first aid information and keep them for reference.

This includes the warnings on the front cover, the safety rules on the inside front cover, and the first aid information at the top of this page.

The supervising adult should discuss the warnings, safety information and the possible hazards with the child or children before commencing the activities.

Incorrect use of chemicals (the plaster, particularly swallowing or inhaling it) can cause injury and damage to health. Only carry out those activities which are listed in the instructions.

You can avoid stirring up too much plaster dust by working slowly and carefully.

This chemical toy is not suitable for children under 8 years. For use under adult supervision. Keep this chemical toy set out of reach of children under 8 years old.

Because children's abilities vary so much, even within age groups, supervising adults should exercise discretion as to which activities are suitable and safe for them. The instructions should enable supervisors to assess any activity to establish its suitability for a particular child.

The area surrounding the activity should be kept clear of any obstructions and away from the storage of food. It should be well lit and ventilated and close to a water supply. A solid table with a heat resistant top should be provided.

The working area should be cleaned immediately after carrying out the activity.

Any spilled or leftover plaster can be disposed of in the household garbage.

Containers and utensils that come into contact with plaster should not be used in the kitchen afterwards.

Even though the flower seeds included in the kit will sprout quickly, a little patience will be required before any growth can be seen. This is a fun way to teach children that plants need care and time to grow. Discuss possible pirate garden locations with your child. The important thing is not to violate any property rights.

**We wish all big
and little garden
pirates a lot of fun!**

PART 1

GaRDEN ATTACK

Become a garden pirate

Garden pirates make sure that our world becomes a prettier and more colorful place. Wherever there used to be trash and filth, flowers suddenly sprout. The flowers attract bumblebees, butterflies, honey bees, and birds. And the more garden pirates there are, the louder the humming and buzzing in the streets all around us...

Who? Anyone can become a garden pirate. Even you! All you need are a few seed bombs, and off you go.

Where? Are there any neglected patches of soil around you? Maybe between houses, under some trees, or in a bleak back yard? Those are places where your pirate gardens could grow.

How will your pirate garden look? Draw your favorite flowers inside the frame on the next page!



TIP!

Who is the owner of your future pirate garden? You will need to clarify that before you start tossing seed bombs. Private properties are off limits. Or at least, you will have to ask for permission. But don't worry — most people like pirate gardens!

Off you go! Draw your
blooming pirate garden
inside this frame!



PART 2

GARDEN PIRATE

ABCs

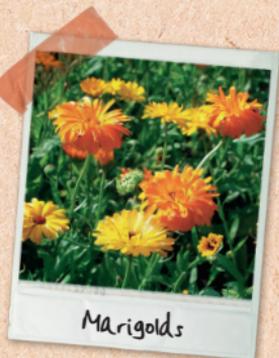
Mixing seed bombs

You will need:

Measuring cup, 3 measuring cups of plaster, 2 measuring cups of sand, $\frac{1}{2}$ measuring cup of flower seeds, wooden spatula, 4 measuring cups of planting soil, 1 measuring cup of water, large plastic bowl

Here's how:

- 1 First of all, you have an important decision to make: Would you prefer to grow some marigolds or a festive mix of summer flowers?



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2 Once you have decided, put the plaster, the sand, the selected seeds and the soil in a large bowl. Stir the dry ingredients well with a wooden spatula until they are evenly mixed.

3 Gradually add a measuring cup of water and mix it into a smooth “dough,” as free as possible of large clumps.

Add more or less water depending on the dampness of the soil you used. Shape the seed bombs right away (page 8) before the mixture gets too hard!



What's going on?

The soil and the water ensure that the seeds have everything that they need to start to grow. The sand and the plaster protect the seeds and prevent your seed bomb from coming apart too quickly — particularly once you have become an expert at long-distance seed bomb throwing!



TIP!

You can use this same recipe for seed bombs for other flowers or herbs. What do you think of garden cress — which grows like crazy — or giant sunflowers? Just remember that you should always select seeds from native plants that will grow well in your area and not cause any problems.

Shaping the seed bombs

You will need:

Seed bomb mold, wooden spatula, the prepared seed bomb mixture

Here's how:

- 1 Use the wooden spatula to fill the mold depressions with the seed bomb mixture and spread the surface smooth. Let everything dry a little and then turn the shapes out of the mold.
- 2 You can also just make balls out of the seed mixture if you prefer. Take a blob of the mixture in your hands and roll it between your palms into a ball — just like working with clay or bread dough. The balls should have a diameter of about 2 to 3 cm. **Wash your hands afterwards!**



TIP!

Is the plaster all used up? No problem, you can also mix up some seed bombs with clay powder! Here's the recipe:

½ measuring cup flower seeds

3 measuring cups planting soil

2 measuring cups clay powder (terrarium supplies store)

1 measuring cup water



Saving and gift-giving

You will need:

Seed bombs, box with lid, gift wrapping paper and ribbon

Here's how:

- 1 Let the seed bombs sit for a few hours in a dark place at room temperature to dry and harden. If the weather and season are right, you can then throw them right away.

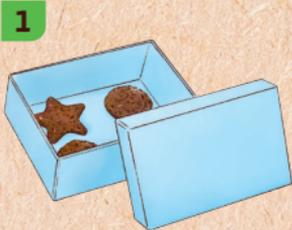
If you want to save them longer, store them in a box that is not air-tight.

It should also be dark, or else the seed bomb will sprout too soon!

- 2 Seed bombs make a great gift. Wrap them in some gift paper and surprise your family and friends. And the great thing about it? You will instantly get a bunch of new pirate friends!

TIP!

Seed bombs can be stored up to two years. Just keep in mind that the older they get, the fewer seeds will sprout.



What? Where? When?

You will need:

Seed bombs, watering can, water

Here's how:

- 1 To grow and thrive, the seed bombs will need soil, water, and light. Keep these requirements in mind as you look for your pirate locations.

Also: if it rains shortly after "launch," the seeds will quickly **germinate** — meaning that they will start to grow into plants.

- 2 Every flower species is unique. That means that different months of the year will be appropriate for throwing the seed bombs depending on the seed type inside them. The marigold and the summer flower mix both need sun to semi-sun. The marigolds can be sown from the end of March to June, the summer flower mix from April to June, both after the last frost of course.



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TIP!

If you make seed bombs using different seeds, just look at the seed packet to see the best time and the best location for sowing. The best thing is to complete your pirate checklist before each garden attack!

Garden pirate checklist

My flowers need

full sun

semi-shade

shade

When is the best month to sow?

When will my flowers bloom?

- 3** As a general rule, it will take two to three weeks for the seed bombs to sprout. You will first see little rootlets, then the first leaves will start stretching toward the sun. The length of time depends on the plant species.

In any case, the plants will need water to grow. So real pirate gardeners will be sure to water their little foster children if there's no rain.



PART 3

EVEN MORE PIRATE IDEAS

Setting up a garden plan

You will need:

Notebook, pens or pencils

Here's how:

- 1 Do you have a good memory? If so, you won't have any problem remembering where you threw all your seed bombs. But most garden pirates have so much fun that they keep throwing bombs around until there are just too many to keep straight.

Here's where a garden plan will help.

Write down or draw where you were when you tossed your bombs.

Also, note when the bomb germinated, grew, and bloomed. That will help you plan your next pirate expeditions.



Creating a tree-planter garden

Keep your eyes open, and every now and then you may notice a little garden planted under a street tree. Garden pirates love planting gardens under trees — and with good reason. The area of soil around the base of a street tree will often be in bad condition — trampled down or covered in trash, with bicycles often left leaning against the trunk. All that means that street trees can easily become unhealthy. So if you take care of the area around the base of the tree, you will also be taking care of the tree.

If you want to start a planting at the base of a city or town tree, it's best to ask your parents for some help, since there are a few things you have to be careful about!

Tree-planter garden checklist

1. Check with the local city parks, trees, or **landscaping department** to find out what restrictions apply to plantings, and obey the rules.
The tree should be at least 5 years old.
2. Clean any trash away from the area around the tree's base. Wear cleaning or gardening gloves as you do this. Next, loosen the soil, but **not deeper than 15 to 20 cm**, so you don't harm the tree's roots.
3. You can improve the soil by adding some good planting soil. **Do not cover the base of the tree trunk in the process.**
4. Now it's time to plant. Shallow-rooted, native plants are best. They will be a source of food for insects and promote biodiversity. **Do not plant any poisonous, thorny, climbing, or woody plants.**

5. A little enclosure will help to make pedestrians aware of the planting, so hopefully nobody will trample it, throw trash on it, or use it as a dog toilet.

But be careful! Don't let the enclosure become a tripping hazard. Solid fences made of wood or metal are usually forbidden. Small stakes and ropes or light wire fences are usually allowed.

6. You will have to take care of your tree planting. If it's dry, you will have to water it thoroughly two or three times a week. If you don't have time to care for it, the enclosure and the plants will have to be removed — unless you can find someone to take over.



Did you know?

Your summer flower mix consists of ten plant species: coneflower, scarlet flax, marigold, mallow, snapdragon, cornflower, ox-eye daisy, campanula, chicory, and scabiosa (pincushion flower).



Making recycled flower pots

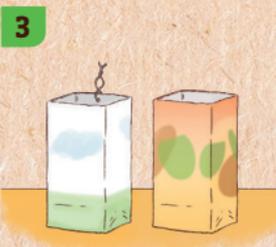
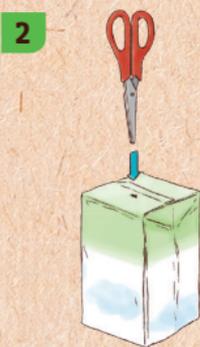
Do you need flower pots for your pirate garden? Then you can make them out of drink cartons, for example.

You will need:

Empty drink cartons (1-liter size), water, scissors, wire, planting soil, flower seeds

Here's how:

- 1 Rinse the empty carton thoroughly with water. Press the carton flat and cut off the top part.
- 2 Use the scissors to bore a small hole in the bottom so extra water can drain off.
- 3 To hang the flower pots, bore a small hole in the rear wall, insert a wire, and twist the wire to make a loop. Or you can simply set the flower pots on the ground.



- 4** Fill the pots with soil and press down the soil a little. Now you can sow your favorite flowers in them. But keep in mind the amount of room that the plant will need as it grows. Herbs are ideal, as are single radishes or small marigolds.

4



Hanging garden

You will need:

Planted drink cartons, *nails, hammer*

Here's how:

- 1** Where to put the pots? Of course, you could put them in a tree planting (see page 13) or set a saucer under them and place them on a windowsill.

Or how about a construction site garden? Lots of big construction projects will have a fence around the site that stands for months or even years — ideal for hanging your flower pots! Ask someone to hammer the nails into the fence for you.

And as always: Ask first, so there's no problem later!

1





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