

Grow Your Own Crocus

Instructions

1. Put one of the briquettes of compost in a bucket or container and add approx. 3 litres of water. This should be enough for about 10 pots. Leave for around 15 minutes for the water to be absorbed. Stir the expanded briquette until it becomes light and fluffy. Add a little more water if necessary.

2. Fill the pot loosely with compost to around 2cm below the rim.

3. Take 9 crocus bulbs. They are already sprouting so please be careful not to damage the white growth. With your finger make a small, shallow hole for each bulb. With the white sprout facing upwards (or if they are not sprouting, the pointed end upwards), lightly place the bulbs in the holes. They will need to be very close to each other but ideally not touching. The top of the crocus bulb should be just below the rim of the pot.

4. Lightly scatter with compost up to the rim of the pot so that the crocus bulbs are just barely covered. Very gently pat down, being careful not to damage the sprouts.

5. Wash your hands thoroughly.

6. Using the marker pen provided, write each child's name on the white plastic sticks and put in their pots. Please note that only an adult should use the permanent marker pen.

7. Put the pots in a cool, dark place – such as a garden shed or garage. If the place you have in mind is not very dark you can always cover the pot with a box!

8. Every week or so check that the compost is slightly moist. Crocuses don't like to be wet so be careful not to over-water them.

9. In the meantime the children can decorate their pot wrappers. Once they're decorated, lock the wrapper by linking the two slits on either side. If you fold them as per the photo you will have a neat finish with the flaps on the inside, and not visible.



10. By late January – or when the shoots reach about 5cm tall – bring the pot inside. Start with a shady spot and then after a few days you can move it to a sunny window. Turn the pot regularly so that the crocuses grow evenly.

If you want to use the crocuses again next year, you'll need to plant them outside. After the flower has died back naturally, store the pot in a cool, dry place. Plant the bulbs in the garden in October and they should bloom in January/February.

