

UC Marin Master Gardeners

Dig it, Grow it, Eat it Program Description

Station Three: Plant Seed Science

Location: Under the Oaks (Outside Livermore Room)

Set up thirty sheets of newspaper – one per child. Once children are seated, tell them they are investigating seeds today. Follow the curriculum – it's really good.

Each student will need a dry and a soaked lima bean and a dry and a soaked corn seed. The lima is the dicot and the corn is the monocot. They will dissect to identify the seed coat, the cotyledon/s and the embryonic leaves. After comparing both dissections, ask students for their observations regarding the differences between the seeds. Ask what are some other example of monocot and dicot sees? Pass some around.

Then, ask the children to gather at 6 tables in groups of 5 where each group husks an ear of corn and with a plastic knife, each cuts off the kernels which go into a “stew” lunch bowl. Then, we ask each child to shell a bean pod – hopefully red beans – and put those into the “stew bowl”.

Having seedlings of various monocots and dicot veggies would be good for hands on demo.