

## Central Peninsula Garden Club Barley Buddy Activity



### **Materials Needed**

Small pots, equal to the number of children who will be participating  
Compost  
Barley Seeds  
Craft Eyes  
Permanent Marker  
Glue Gun  
Adult volunteers

### **Instructions**

This project is best done outdoors and with adult supervision. Gather the above supplies and created a station for each step in the process.

**Station 1:** Help each child create a face upon their pot. They will need assistance gluing they eyes on their pots. Make sure kids know the glue gun is a hot surface. Help them draw fun mouths on their pots with the permanent marker. A fun variation could be to have each kid draw and color eyes and mouths on a piece of paper and with adult assistance, cut them out and glue on the pots.

**Station 2:** Have an adult assist each child with putting compost in their pot, fill about three-quarters of the way full. Sprinkle well with the barley seeds and cover loosely with more compost, about a half inch thick. Water well.

### **How to Care for Your Barley Buddy**

- 1) **LIGHT:** Place your Barley Buddy near a south-facing window or under a lamp where it will get plenty of light during the day.
- 2) **WATER:** Keep top layer of soil barely moist. When green shoots appear, remove plastic wrap and water thoroughly with about 1/3 cup of water.
- 3) **WATCH** your Barley Buddy's "hair" grow! Continue watering every 3-4 days so that soil is moist, not soggy.
- 4) **THINGS TO TRY:**
  - When plants are at least 4" tall, trim the tops and feed to rabbits or chickens. Leave at least 2" above the soil so the plants can keep growing.
  - See how tall your plants can grow! Transplant to a larger container (at least 8" deep) filled with potting soil.
  - Try growing outdoors in a container or re-plant in your garden. Wait until mid-May before moving your plants outside.

**TAKE PICTURES!** We'd love to see how your Barley Buddy turns out. You can share pictures with Central Peninsula Garden Club on Facebook or email them to [cenpengardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:cenpengardenclub@gmail.com).

### **What's special about this soil?**

This soil is compost! Compost is organic matter that has decomposed in a process called composting.

Composting starts with materials like kitchen scraps, coffee grounds, grass clippings and brown leaves – things that are too often thrown away like trash – and recycles them into food for healthy, nutritious plants.

This compost was made here on the Kenai Peninsula. It includes ingredients that would otherwise be taking up space in the nearest landfill.

### **What's special about these seeds?**

Alaska farmers grew these barley seeds. Barley is the grain that grows best in Alaska. Most Alaska barley is grown in Delta Junction, about a 9-hour drive north of the Kenai Peninsula. Have you eaten Alaska barley? A mill in Delta Junction grinds barley seeds to make flour, breakfast cereal and even Alaska Grown barleypancake mix!

This activity is brought to you by volunteers from Central Peninsula Garden Club with help from Kenai Soil & Water Conservation District,

Alaska Ag in the Classroom and local businesses who donated materials.

