

Grow your own Avocado

A little-known fact is that one of our Directors Mark is very green fingered and a keen gardener!

Now it would be a waste for Mark to have all this gardening knowledge and not share how he does it, and will be even worse if he doesn't share the fruits of his labours when they come to bear!

So, we had a chat with him and asked "What would be a good gardening project for the kids to do at home?" We love his suggestion as anyone can do this, even if you have not got a vegetable plot, only have limited garden or none whatsoever!



Mark told us.....

"If your family are anything like mine, then when the weather's warm they like nothing more than being able to sit outside and have a salad lunch. When making the salad, I get crazed by the kids to make sure we cut up an avocado to go in with it (I haven't yet managed to persuade them to simply cut an avocado in half and put a dollop of HP sauce in each side; seriously if you haven't tried it you should as it is yum!!!)."

Avocados and Salad

Where is this leading, we wondered, is he going to suggest that we grow some cress?

No!

He said "Have you ever wondered what to do with the Avocado stone? Why not grow your very own avocado tree, we did, and it is dead simple!"

Are you intrigued, then read on for **step by step instructions to grow your own Avocado.....?**

1. Get a small plastic bottle, the sort of bottle that the fizzy drinks come in. Cut off and discard the neck of the bottle, keeping the main cylinder of the bottle.
2. Next, break a bamboo skewer into four equal lengths. Keeping the narrowest end of the stone at the top, push the lengths of skewer into each side spacing them equally about ½ and inch from the top.
3. Now pop the stone in the bottle with the largest proportion at the bottom, the skewers will hold the stone so that two thirds of it sit in the bottle and the narrow end faces up out of the bottle. Next, fill the bottle with water so that two thirds of the stone are covered and pop it on a sunny windowsill.



4. Keep the water topped up and watch for when the stone starts splitting down the side and a root begins to appear at the base. As the root continues growing a plant should start to appear. Once the root reaches the bottom of the bottle, take the stone from the bottle, and remove the skewers.
5. Now, fill a pot with compost, it is *important that the pot is at least as long, as the root*. Make a well in the middle and carefully pop the avocado root into the hole, gently fill the rest of the pot with compost covering the stone. Press down firmly on the compost and top up with compost if required. Place on a tray and water thoroughly, by placing on a tray any excess water will drain out of the pot.
6. Pop your newly planted avocado on the windowsill, sit back and watch it grow. You might need to re-pot to a bigger pot if the roots start showing out of the bottom.

You never know, you might get lucky and get fruit!!

