

Growing Lettuce and Soybeans – Which Soil is Best?

Title of Experiment:	Growing Lettuce and Soybeans – Which Soil is Best?
Purpose:	The purpose of this experiment is to explore how soybeans and lettuce grow in different types of soil.
Materials:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8 pots (or plastic cups would work)• 2 cups of each type of soil (potting soil, sand, silt, clay)• 4 soybean seeds• 4 lettuce seeds• water• light or sunlight• masking tape• marker• spoon
Safety:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wear gloves when handling soil• Have a towel ready if water spills when watering.
Steps / Instructions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• potting soil – lettuce• clay soil – soybean• clay soil – lettuce

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Steps / Instructions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• silt soil – soybean• silt soil – lettuce• sand soil – soybean• sand soil – lettuce• Put two cups of each type of soil in the correct pot. For example, make sure you put potting soil in the pot labelled potting soil.• Dig a small hole using your spoon or fingers in the center of each pot.• Drop two of each seed into the soil. Make sure you put the soybean seeds in the 4 pots labeled for soybeans, and the lettuce seeds in the 4 pots labelled for lettuce.• Cover the seeds with soil.• Give each plant some water.• Place plants in sunlight. Give each plant a small amount of water ($\frac{1}{4}$ cup – $\frac{1}{2}$ cup) each day.• Record your observations in the chart.
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Observations:

Use the chart to record your observations. Each observation should have a diagram or explanation of what has changed. Do you notice the plants growing or sprouting from the soil? Once they've sprouted, can you measure how tall they are?

		Potting soil	Silt soil	Clay soil	Sand soil
Soybeans	2 days				
	1 week				
	1.5 weeks				
	2 weeks				
Lettuce	2 days				
	1 week				
	1.5 weeks				
	2 weeks				