

## PLANTARIUM

### OWNER'S GUIDE

“PLANTARIUM” is a wonderful product series which gives you the opportunity to learn everything about plants and plant growth. They are very amusing and easy to look after. They need no nourishment or watering; the culture container in which they grow and the non-toxic gel contain everything the plant needs to grow and live.

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR TAKING CARE OF THE “PLANT IN GEL”

1. Open the box and take the culture greenhouse and the container with seeds and the small stick.

**WARNING:  
BE CAREFUL TO AVOID ANY DEBRIS INSIDE THE CONTAINER!**

The gel contained inside the container is very sensitive to dust and dirt particles.  
**Mould might appear on the gel if you fail to follow all the preparation and sowing procedures.**

2. Before planting the seeds, wash your hands with care with water and soap, and dry them with a clean paper-tissue. Remove the cover and dry away with the cotton stick any water drops from the cover and the inside walls of the culture container.
3. You must use the seeds included in the package only, and don't forget to add the other objects inside the culture container. If you fail to follow the exact procedures, you may damage the growth process of the plant. Before planting the seeds, push the small wood stick into the gel, and gently turn it in order to create grooves inside. Groove depth must allow the seed to be located just a little under the gel surface.

Repeat this procedure 2-3 times.

4. Open the seed package and use the small stick to put the seeds in the grooves, within the gel. Avoid touching the seeds with your hands. Once you have planted the seeds, immediately close the culture container with the plastic cover.
5. Put your “PLANTARIUM” in a dark place with an environmental temperature of about 70° - 80° Fahrenheit.
6. Once the seeds are planted, do not open the cover until your plant is ready to be transplanted. The cover protects your plant and the Gel from bacteria and mould. Don't worry, your plant can still breathe. It is not necessary to water the plant, as the gel gives it the necessary water and nourishment.
7. In about two to three weeks, white roots should appear, which indicates seeds sprout and the beginning of plant growth. Remember that seeds from a same species sprout at different times. Also, not all the seeds sprout – this is why you find more seeds within the package.

8. As soon as a seed has sprout, take your plant from a dark to normal condition environment. Do not expose the plant to temperatures below 50 ° F / 10°C.
9. **KEEP THE PLANT AWAY FROM DIRECT SUNLIGHT AND WINDOWS.**
10. Your plants will grow with the normal environment light. If you wish to optimize the growing process, you can use fluorescent light. The culture container must be kept at a distance of 40-50 cm from the light source and be exposed to light no more than 10 hours per day. In order to optimize the plant growth you can use incandescent lamps or bulbs.

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE TRANSPLANTATION OF YOUR "PLANT IN GEL"

- Once your “plant in gel” has grown enough to reach the upper side of the container, and you think its growth is too much, or you notice the presence of mould spots on the gel surface, it's time to proceed with the transplantation. The mould spots presence means that your plant has used all the nutritional substances contained in the gel and that it is time now to transplant it in a vase filled with soil.
  - Open the culture container cover. Using a knife, gently separate the gel from the container walls. Slightly tilt the container to let the plant and the gel slip out of the container into your hands. After this, wash the roots with a gentle flow of water. Avoid pulling out the roots.
- (3) As soon as a single seed appears on the surface of the gel, place the small green house in a bright place, but never in the direct light of the sun. When the plant has reached the top of the small green house, open it and extract the gel with the plant by using a small spatula; then rinse carefully the gel from the roots. Also carefully clean the remaining gel residue from the green house using wet paper towel. Now place the soil peats in the empty small green house and add about 120 ml of water to allow the soil to expand.
  - (4) After few minutes you'll have a new green house full of soil, and you can now repot the little plant up to one third of its length and place it in a bright room but not in direct sunlight.
  - (5) Cover the plant with a transparent container only for the first week. Water it every two days without leaving too much water in the green house.
  - (6) After the small plant have become strong , after about 2 to 3 weeks, you can transplant them in your garden or in a pot. And you can start watching your plant grow strong and happy thanks to your help with the small Green house PLANTARIUM.
  - (7) Don't forget to take loving care of your plant, it's a living being – treat it well!

**CAUTION**  
**GEL IS NON-TOXIC BUT IT'S INEDIBLE!**

**“PLANT IN GEL”****PARENTAL INFORMATION**

The "Plant in Gel" should not represent any problem for the parents, as it is an educational play for children. As the plant initially grows in a sealed and autonomous environment, there's no need for nourishment, watering or any commitment. Gel is non-toxic and transparent, and it allows total visibility of its internal world.

For younger children, the plant in gel offers the opportunity of explaining and teaching how things grow-up. Just tell them that leaves collect heat from the sun, and the roots absorb water to grow-up and get stronger. In fact, water is the main component of the Gel. Just like people, in order to grow plants need to eat food and drink. The Gel contains special sugar, which represent the plant food. Regularly count the leaves of the plant in order to experiment the signs of its growth. Measure the plant to see how much it has grown.

Parents and teenagers should encourage younger children to make more interesting experiments and observations of their plants. Comparing the plant growth in the light and in the dark, or regularly measuring the development of the various species of “Plants in Gel” – this is also shown on the supplied tables – it's undoubtedly a good experience for learning. A short description and history of plants it's also useful:

**the plants growing around us come from different places, through natural migration and/or man's help. How they reached us is one of the most exciting history of Mother Nature.**

After having transplanted the plant, make sure your child assists you in watering the plant. Discuss with your child about the help your plant needs in order to receive the nutrition which is necessary for its growth. This will help you to teach your child how to be responsible. You can establish the time for watering the plant, in order to teach your child how to deal with the clock.

Some steps in this procedure, especially the transplantation of the "Plant in gel" from the culture container to the vase is a little complicated and you must have a certain skill on manual operations. You may want to read over again these instructions with your children to make sure they fully understand. Keep in mind that these young plants are delicate and should be treated with all possible care. Make sure your children understand why it is important not to contaminate the plant. Make sure you wash your hands before planting the seeds and that your children do not touch the seeds. When the cell is closed, make sure it stays so.

We are sure that the "Plant in Gel" will help children and parents to spend a few minutes for watching those marvels of nature, too often forgotten.