

Sowing New Seeds

Exotic crop activity cards

These cards show some of the crops that are not so commonly grown in the UK. They aim to help people become more familiar with the different growing stages and edible produce from these crops. Much of the produce can be found in Asian or Caribbean grocers or even in supermarkets. If you would like to find out more about growing the crops, we suggest that you look on the Sowing New Seeds website (www.sowingnewseeds.org.uk)

If you have downloaded the cards from the internet

- Print out the cards double sided if possible
- Cut along the dotted lines to produce 8 cards per sheet. The correct information should be on the back of each picture!

Notes and suggestions for use

You should have 48 cards. These are divided into 12 sets:

- Each set represents 1 plant, ie there are 12 different plants
- Each plant has four cards to a set: three picture cards and a name card. The back of each card contains some information about that stage of development and each set represents the growth of the crop.
- Some of the plants are not grown from seed but are propagated by saving and replanting some of the crop such as a tuber or a root (vegetative propagation).
- Each card is colour coded on the back so, each set should contain numbers 1 –4 of the same colour ie 

Suggestions for extended activities, research and investigation

- Shuffle the cards and lay them picture side up. Try to match up cards into groups of 4 ie all from the same plant. There should be one name card and 3 pictures of plant parts. Try not to look at the backs of the cards, but you can match up the coloured spots on the backs of the cards if you get stuck.
- Obtain examples of the plants to identify and compare with the pictures. Some of these may be grown locally on allotment sites and domestic gardens. Make contact with local gardeners and arrange a visit to see the plants growing.

- Grow some of the plants in the school garden or on windowsills if appropriate. Contact Sowing New Seeds at Garden Organic for advice on plant care and growing instructions.
- Where are these crops commonly eaten around the world? Locate these countries on a map.
- How are these crops grown, stored, processed and used in the countries of origin? What are the pests and diseases associated with them? How are they controlled?
- Which plants are available in local shops and compare with availability and prices in supermarkets. Find out countries of origin and assess how far they have travelled – eg 'food miles'.
- Find recipes for these crops from an appropriate country. Make and eat recipes. Produce a menu, have a feast, celebrate new and diverse food. Create surveys based on favourites; analyse results and present findings.
- What is vegetative propagation? Why are some of these plants NOT grown from seed? What's the difference between plants grown from seed and those that are propagated vegetatively?
- Find out about stories, folk tales, songs and traditions associated with the different plants
- Find out about other uses for the plants in addition to eating – some may be used for fibre, dyeing, medicine etc
- What is the botanical (Latin) name for each plant? Find out national and local names that may vary in different communities and families
- Use the plants for inspiration in creating art works.