



HOMEGROWN HOUSEPLANTS



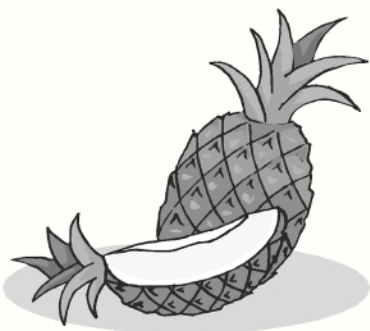
Potential gardens literally go out with the trash almost daily in every home. Few people realize that citrus, pineapple, and avocado can grow into great houseplants. Here's how:

Citrus Secrets

Citrus seeds are injured by drying, so leave 'em in the fruit until it is time to plant. Then, lay 'em in a 50/50 mixture of good soil and sphagnum peat, and cover with another half-inch of the soil mix. Keep them moist, but not soggy. The seeds usually germinate in about 30 days.



Pot a Pineapple

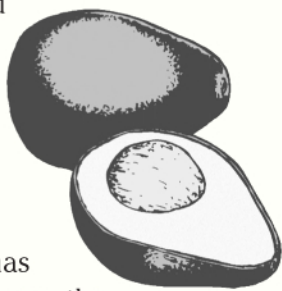


Pineapple plants are a cinch to grow, provided that you *always* keep the cups at the back of the leaves filled with water! To start a plant, cut off a pineapple's leafy top, and place it on wet sand or vermiculite in a pot. Enclose the whole thing in a plastic bag, and put in a sunny place. Keep it well watered in a bright spot, and it'll grow like gangbusters.

Growin' Guacamole

If you haven't planted an avocado by now, shame on you! Wash the big ol' seed in warm water, and remove the brown skin. Then, hang the seed (big end down) in a water-filled jar by placing 3 toothpicks into the sides for support. The water should cover about 1" of the seed.

Place the jar in a warm location out of direct sunlight. Add water as needed, until the seed sprouts. (It could take 6 weeks or longer, so be patient.) Once the main stem reaches 6 to 7" tall, cut it back midway between the top and bottom to prevent the plant from producing just one straight, spindly stalk.



When the roots are thick and the stem has leafed out, the plant is ready for potting. Leave the seed half exposed when you plant it. Keep it watered, and you'll have a tropical houseplant in no time at all!