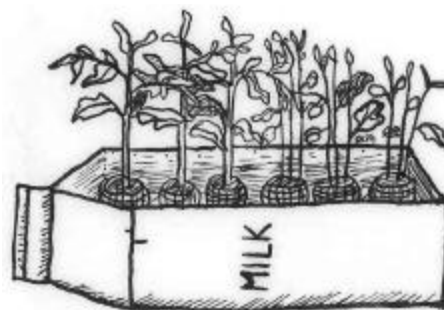


Growing Seeds Indoors: Too Many Tomatoes

Young seedlings can be grown close together when they are very small, but they need plenty of room to grow as they get bigger. Let's see what happens when plants are grown too close together.

You will need:

- a mini-greenhouse (see Make a Mini-Greenhouse)
- 6 peat pots filled with soilless mix, or 6 peat pellets
- tomato seeds
- scissors



1. **Fill** a mini-green house with 6 filled peat pots or 6 peat pellets (expanded by water). In each of the pots **plant** 3 tomato seeds and place the mini-greenhouse in a warm, sunny location. Water and care for these seeds until they have sprouted and are **growing their first set of true leaves**.
2. **Thin** 3 of the pots so that there is only 1 tomato plant left in each. To thin the plants, use a sharp scissors and gently **snip off** 2 of the seedling stems where they come out of the soil. Be careful not to hurt the plant that you are leaving in the pot. Leave behind the strongest and healthiest looking plant in each pot. The first set of leaves you see on a seedling are not true leaves. They are called cotyledons or seed leaves.
3. In the 3 remaining pots, **leave** all 3 seedlings to continue growing. Continue to **care** for these plants.

After about 4 weeks what do you see happening to these plants? _____

Which are the strongest growing plants? _____

Which plants have the greenest color? _____

Which plants have the strongest stem? _____

Why do you think there is a difference? _____