



# GUIDE for GROWING your FERN BABIES!

 1 x 2-litre clear, plastic beverage bottle


 2 cups potting soil (damp, but not wet)


 1 tsp fertilizer per 2 cups of soil, if available





## Procedure


When you take your petri dish home, place it in a north-facing window to provide sufficient light. Direct sunlight is too strong, and will dry out the plate.


 1–3 weeks after water has been added to the petri dish, the young sporophytes will have leaves about 0.5 cm in width and will have developed sufficient roots so that they can be transferred to a bottle terrarium.


 Take a 2-L clear plastic bottle and make a circular cut 2" below the neck. Cut only 3/4 of the way around the bottle to create a “hinge,” allowing the top of the bottle to lift open for better access.


 Add 2 cups potting soil to the bottle. Add fertilizer (if available) and mix it into the top two inches of the soil.


 Create a shallow cavity in the centre of the potting mix (2" deep x 1" diameter).

 Using a butter knife or a thin spatula, carefully remove each young sporophyte from the petri dish, keeping the agar intact.

 Gently remove some of the agar without damaging the roots and place each sporophyte separately, roots down, into the previously made cavity of potting mix.

 Carefully cover the roots with the potting mix and lightly press down on the surface around the sporophyte to give it a firm footing.

 If the soil is not moist, make sure to add water as needed such that the soil is damp (but not wet). Continue to water the C-Fern on a weekly basis, making sure that the soil is kept moist without being soaked through.

 The fern will grow best under warm temperatures, but away from direct sunlight. Cold window sills are not recommended. Other than watering, as described in the step above, little care is needed for growth.