

## Carrot Seed Tape/Pizza Garden Lesson

**Concept Objective:** Preparing for a Garden

**Time:** 40-45 minutes

**Setting:** Indoors

**Activities:** Carrot Seed Tape, Pizza Garden Starter

### Materials Needed:

- Carrot Seeds
- Flour – 2-3 tablespoons
- Squeeze Bottles
- Food Coloring (optional)
- Paper Towels, cut in 2 inch strips
- Rulers
- 6 pack planting containers
- Soil
- Plant Markers
- Pencils
- Basil, Oregano, Tomato, and pepper seeds
- Onion starters
- Spray Bottles



### Introduction:

What is Seed Tape?

Seed tape is a great product for planting that has seeds embedded right into it. It's perfect for planting tiny seeds like carrot that are difficult to space in the garden. The "tape" is made of bio-degradable paper which is planted directly into your garden. Premade seed tape tends to be pricey. But you can make your own seed tape for a fraction of the cost of pre-made tape.

Why Bother With Seed Tape?

Seed tape has several advantages. No seed is wasted; the seeds are embedded into the paper tape one at a time and are perfectly spaced and ready to go into the garden. This also means that no thinning is required. They are especially useful for tiny seeds which can be difficult to plant such as radish, carrot, lettuce or parsnip.

## Procedure:

### Carrot Seed Tape

**Prep:** Dissolve flour in ½ cup of hot water in a bowl, keep adding flour until it thickens. Mixture should look opaque and cling slightly to a fork before dripping off. Let it cool and transfer into squeeze bottle add 1 drop of food coloring and shake the bottle to make your 'Glue Dots' easier to see.

1. Introduction: Start by talking about carrots. Ask what kind of vegetable is a carrot? A root. Ask why carrots are good for you? Healthy vegetable, good for eyes, etc. Talk a little about the traditional method of planting carrots with many seeds in a row, then thinning. Discuss that seed tape sets the seeds up with enough space for each seed to get what it needs and have enough space to grow without needing to thin the plants. Seed tape makes gardening easier.
2. Hand out a handful of paper towel strips to each student and a small handful of carrot seeds. Have the squeeze bottles with the “seed glue” ready for them to use.
3. Lay out Paper Towel Strips, and place dots across one side of the fold with the cornstarch mixture spacing the dots according to the planting directions of the seed packets, generally about an inch apart is fine.



4. Place one seed on top of each the dots.



5. Fold other half of paper towel on top and let it dry completely.



6. Place the seed tape in a plastic Ziploc bag or container until you are ready to plant. Be sure to write the students name and what type of seed it is. You could even drop the seed packet with instructions in with your seed tapes for future reference.



## Pizza Garden

### Introduction:

Discuss what vegetables and spices are used in making a pizza. Make a list on the board. Discuss the different ingredients. **Oregano** is a perennial herb that gives pizza the characteristic taste and wonderful smell. It may be used fresh or dried. **Basil** is an annual herb. There are several kinds of basil varieties, sweet basil or Genovese basil works great for your pizza garden. **Onions** can be planted from seeds or sets (small bulbs). Select red, white or yellow for your garden. **Pepper plants** are a great addition to a pizza garden. Plant any green, sweet, bell type of pepper. If you like hot, spicy pizza, plan to also grow a hot pepper variety. A **tomato** plant is an important addition to the garden. A paste tomato variety, such as Roma, is recommended for your pizza garden. Roma has small, oblong tomatoes with a thick meaty flesh.

1. Hand out a six pack container to each student. Have them plant one cell of Oregano, one cell of basil, one onion, one pepper, and two tomatoes.
2. Be sure to label each cell and have the students put their names on their "pizza gardens".
3. Water thoroughly.
4. Review care and transplanting and hardening off information.