

# Discovering Outdoors

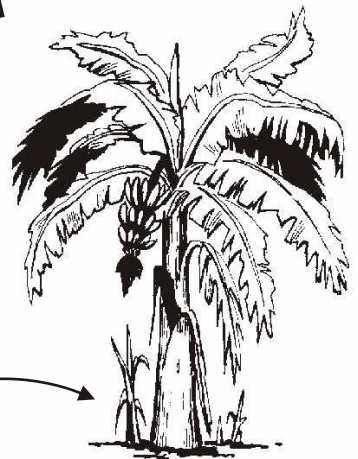
Junior Ranger



## THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO GROW A PLANT

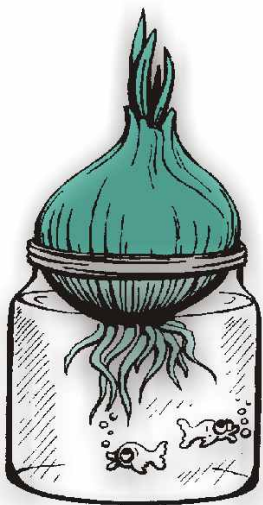
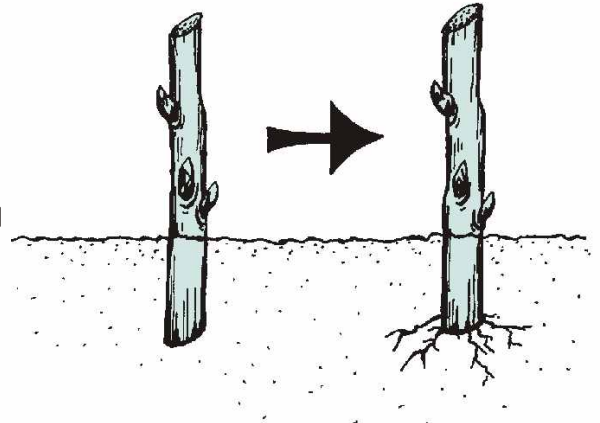
Vegetative reproduction is when a plant can reproduce and grow from pieces of itself. Follow these simple steps and you too can vegetatively grow your own plants!

Plants can basically grow in one of two ways; from seeds or vegetatively. You may already be familiar with some types of vegetative reproduction. Some plants, like banana trees can send up 'suckers' from their roots. Gardeners often take advantage of another form of vegetative reproduction and grow plants from cuttings and grafts.



### GROW YOUR OWN CUTTINGS!

Try growing your own plants from cuttings. Pick the end of a fresh growing branch, cut sticks generally no longer than 10 cm and put the cut end into some potting mix as shown. Cutting off the leaves will also help. Keep it moist and out of the direct sun and see if it grows. Generally plants with softer branches work better. Vines and creepers are often the easiest and dry woody timbered trees, like gum trees are the hardest to grow.



You could also try growing an onion in a jar of water. Set it up as shown and new leaves should grow from the top and new roots from the old base.

Or try growing an old carrot. Cut it across near the top and scoop it out as shown. Hang it upside down in a sunny spot and fill it with water and observe what happens over the next week.



The onion and carrot are food storage systems (tubers) for the plants. They can have all of the above ground leaves die off and then re-sprout new leaves using the energy stored in the tuber. Many local plants can do this. Think of the native yams, ground orchids and lilies that shoot up when water becomes more plentiful. And some larger trees like eucalypts can resprout from lignotubers (type of root) when they have been seriously damaged above ground.