

How to make a 'Grassy Head'.



Ok so this is an old idea but I have never found any one that is sick of it yet.

You can get this type of project as a kit from toy stores, but this is a version that I have come up with that works really well and costs very little. I have made this project from grade one to grade seven students and they all enjoy it as much as each other.

You will need:

- Budget grass seed
- Old stocking
- Sand
- Plastic plate
- Cardboard cylinder
- Pipe cleaners
- Drinking straw
- Ice cream or margarine container
- Low melt hot glue gun
- Scissors



Instructions:

Cut a piece of the end of a stocking/panty hose leg about 12 inches long. Cut off the very end toe section of the stocking/panty hose leg. (This part is double thickness and can be hard for the grass to grow through.) Tie a knot in one end of the 12 inch piece of stocking leg and make sure the knot is firm, then cut the excess off close to this knot.





Next feed the stocking over the cardboard cylinder. (This makes it easy to put the seed and sand into the stocking and it also keeps the seeds in one area so that your grassy head only has hair on top of his/her head and not all over.) Place grass/lawn seed into the cylinder. (You need about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a measuring cup.) Then carefully fill the

cylinder with clean sand pit sand. Remove the cylinder out of the stocking a little so that the sand starts to fill the stocking. Repeat this sand process until your piece of stocking holds enough sand to make a ball shape about the size of a soft ball.



(I could only find a tennis ball to take a photo as a size guide, and sorry it is the one the dog has chewed on!!)

When you are happy with the size remove the cylinder and then holding firmly onto the end twist the ball until the excess is wound up firmly and tie a knot as close as you can to the sand ball. Now cut off the excess stocking, turn sand ball over so that the seed section is located from the top to the back of the "head", and place the sand ball onto the plastic plate.



You may need to carefully reshape the sand ball into the shape you want your grassy head to be, once you have it sitting on the plate.





Using the drinking straw, pipe cleaner, and ice cream/margarine containers cut pieces that make an interesting looking face. You can use other items to make the face if you wish but just remember they need to be water proof. (Paper and cardboard should not be used.) Carefully put the low melt hot glue onto the pieces and then place them onto the sand and stocking ball. You only get one go at each piece because once it is stuck on you can not remove it with out making a hole in the stocking. (If you do make a hole then you need to start again as the head will usually fall apart when growing if it has a hole in it.) Also remember you only need to make a face, the hair will grow later so leave the area where the seeds are free from things stuck on so there is room for the hair to grow.

Place the grassy head inside by a window so that it has plenty of sunlight, and fill the plastic plate with water. Make sure the plate always has water in it. (You need to check the water every day, if the plate dries out it can effect how well your Grassy Head grows.)



Now sit back and watch your grassy heads hair grow. It only takes about 3 to 5 days before you see the first shoots appear depending on how warm it is.

I made this grassy during winter and it only took 3 days before I saw my first grass shoot.

Below are three pictures showing the changes in my Grassy Head. I took the first photo when I had finished making my Grassy Head, the second after one week and the last photo after 2 weeks.

