

CHAPTER 6:

PROTECTING SEEDS AND SEEDLINGS



TASK TO COMPLETE:

1. Make some of the protections explained below.
2. Send us a photo of what you've made.

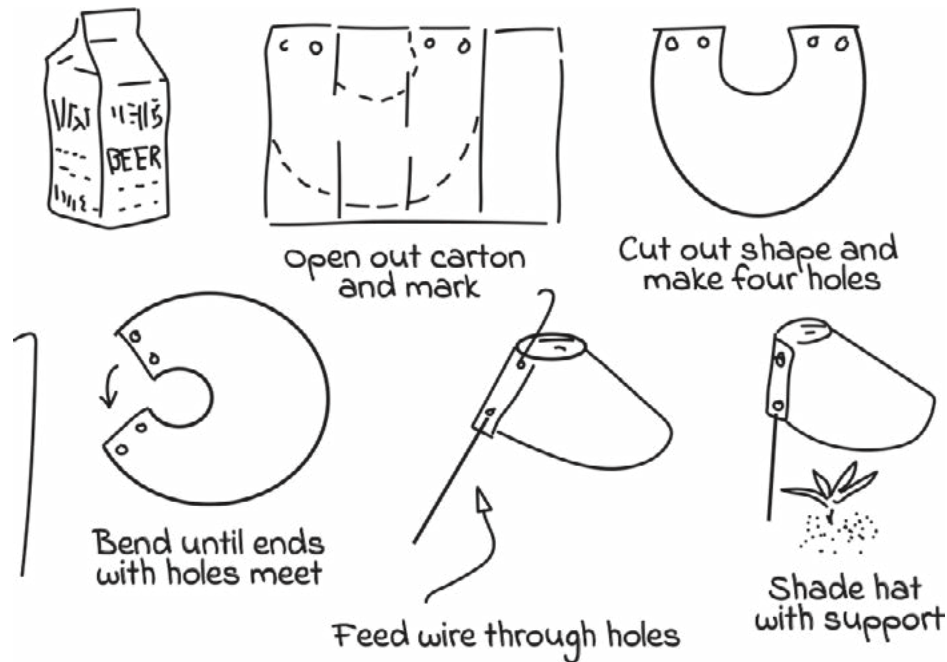
DIFFERENT WAYS TO PROTECT NEWLY PLANTED SEEDS AND SEEDLINGS

There are many different cheap and easy ways to protect your seeds and seedlings. Some examples include:

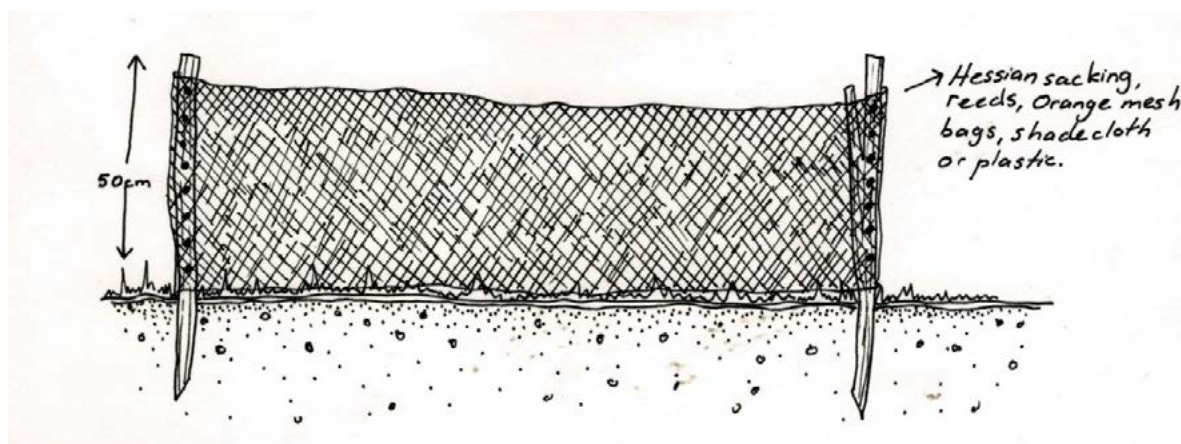
- ◆ **Toilet rolls:** Cutting a toilet roll into thirds and putting them in the ground so that the roots of the beans and peas are inside the hole of the toilet roll. This protects the roots from insects (cutworms) that will eat them.
- ◆ **Shade net:** Taking old orange bags, onions bags, butternut bags and using them to make a shade net over plants, protects them when the sun is very hot.
- ◆ **Egg shells:** Crushing egg shells (lots of them) and putting them around the different seedlings and seeds protects them from snails and slugs. Broken egg shells feel like glass to slugs and snails when they crawl over them.

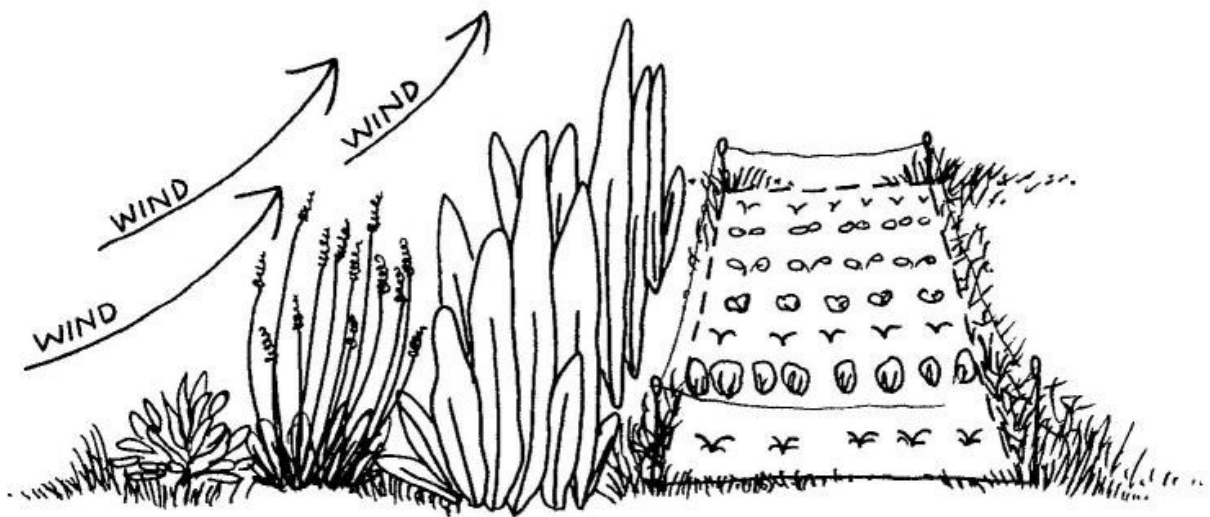


- ◆ **Bird scare:** Using a CD, or cutting up an old chip packet or something with a shiny surface, tying it to a stick and placing it in your garden, will scare birds away.
- ◆ **Mulch:** Always use mulch – it stops the sun from drying out the soil and helps to stop weeds from growing – which take nutrients away from your plants.
- ◆ **Shading from the sun:** Seedlings, and some of the green leafy vegetables, need protection from very strong sun. Use shade hats made from used Liqui-fruit/juice boxes or netting sewn from old orange vegetable bags or cloth. In some areas, where the temperatures are very high in summer, it is a good idea to shade the garden at the hottest time of the day. Make a shade cover with a frame of rough wood and cover it with dry grass, split reeds, or whatever materials you can find.



- ◆ **Wind protection:** Wind not only damages plants but also causes them to wilt, dries out the soil and blows away mulch and topsoil. A hedge of plants of different heights provides an effective wind break around your vegetable garden or your home. Such a barrier reduces the force of the wind and deflects it up and away from the garden. It also provides a habitat for small creatures. You can also make a wind break from two stakes and a vegetable or orange bag pulled across it, in front of the bed.





There are online questions you can
complete after this section

