

Making a herbarium.

Medieval cultivation, large or small, was based on planting seeds in low ridges of soil. The garden in a monastery was called a Herbarium, but it did just grow herbs as we think of them, it also grew an assortment of vegetables to supplement the diet of the monks.

We are going to make a miniature herbarium in a small container.

The herbs we are growing (cress) like damp conditions so a watertight container like a tray form a takeaway will be suitable for the garden.

Half fill the tray with potting compost and water so that it is damp.

Now create two ridges of compost along the length of the tray.

Sprinkle your seeds in a line along the top of each ridge.

Place somewhere sunny, and keep topping up with a little water.

After a short time the seeds will germinate and produce two leaves, and you will have two rows of crops ready to harvest.

What happens if you harvest one and let the other keep growing?

