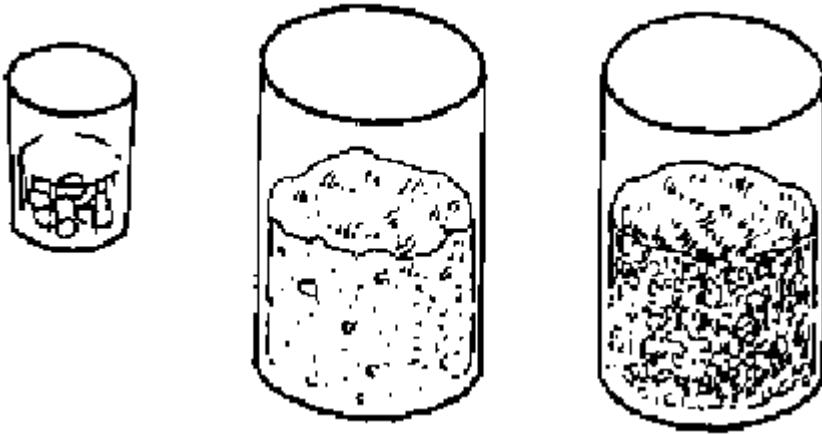
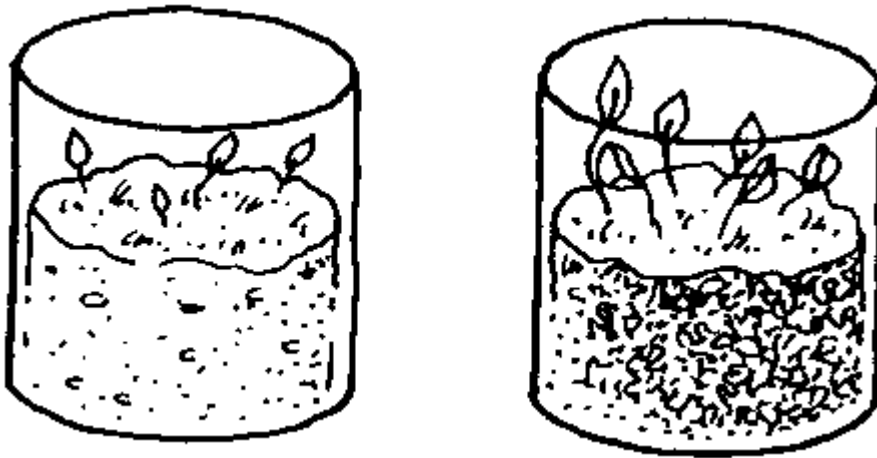


## How does compost help growing plants?



### Activity

1. Soak six or eight beans overnight in water.
2. Fill one jar or flowerpot with ordinary soil dug up from your garden, lawn, or pathway.
3. Fill a second jar or pot with the same kind of soil, but mix it half-and-half with finished compost. If you don't have a compost pile yet, you can use composted manure from a garden centre.
4. Plant a few beans in each pot.
5. Place them where they will be warm and have some sunshine.
6. Keep the pots watered, and check each day to see what happens...



Soils that contain lots of decomposed organic matter, like compost, can store more food for the plants and release it to them as they need it. Unless you are lucky enough to have very rich soil already, you'll probably find that the beans grew faster and stronger in the pot that had compost added to the soil.

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Adapted from *Backyard Magic: The Composting Handbook* website, constructed by Communications and Environmental Education of the New Brunswick Department of the Environment

