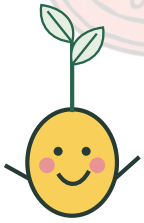
# Mulch and Moisture

Investigate whether covering compost changes how quickly it dries.



Little growers, big discoveries

10 MIN + CHECKS | WATER AND SOIL COVER | AGES 5+ WITH AN ADULT

## Grab your kit

Two matching pots with drainage holes and saucers, compost, a little clean straw, water, a measuring cup, labels and paper.

## Your discovery mission

1. Label the pots Covered and Uncovered. Fill both with equal amounts of the same compost, packed in the same way.
2. Give each the same measured amount of water. Let both drain, empty the saucers and add a thin layer of straw to Covered.
3. Place the pots beside each other, away from rain. Each day, check moisture just below the surface; lift the straw briefly to check underneath.
4. Record damp or dry for up to five days, without watering again. Compare when each pot first feels dry.

## What did you discover?

First dry check
Covered: day _____ Uncovered: day _____

### Draw your discovery

### Let’s wonder...

What might the straw change? Is touching the compost a precise way to measure water?

**NEXT ADVENTURE**

With an adult, weigh each pot after draining and daily afterwards. Compare how much mass each loses.

Use pots without plants for this experiment. Avoid dry dust and wash hands after touching compost.