



Broad beans grow in pods. Do you know how they get out of their pods and down to the ground where they can grow?

You can see how broad beans and lots of other types of bean grow by planting them in a clear pot or jar.

You will need:

A clear jar, glass or pot
Cotton wool
Water
Some large beans for planting



1. Fluff out some cotton wool so that it fills your jar. Make sure it fits snugly, but not too tight.
2. Pour enough water over the cotton wool to make it completely damp all the way through, but not standing in a pool of water at the bottom of the jar.
3. Push your bean down between the cotton wool and the inside of the glass jar. Make sure that it rests about halfway down - not poking out at the top or touching the bottom!
4. Place the jar in a warm place, but not in direct sunlight.
5. Over the next few days, add water as required, making sure that the cotton wool does not dry out.
6. After a few days, you should notice your bean start to grow!
7. When the bean has grown lots of roots and shoots with leaves, you could plant it in soil and watch it grow into a full-sized bean plant!

Broad beans explode out of their pods, fly through the air and land on the ground, sometimes more than a metre away! Lots of beans and seeds are dispersed explosively in this way.