

Investigation 8 Acid attack

What impact can acid rain have on plant growth?

With this investigation you will be able to see for yourself.

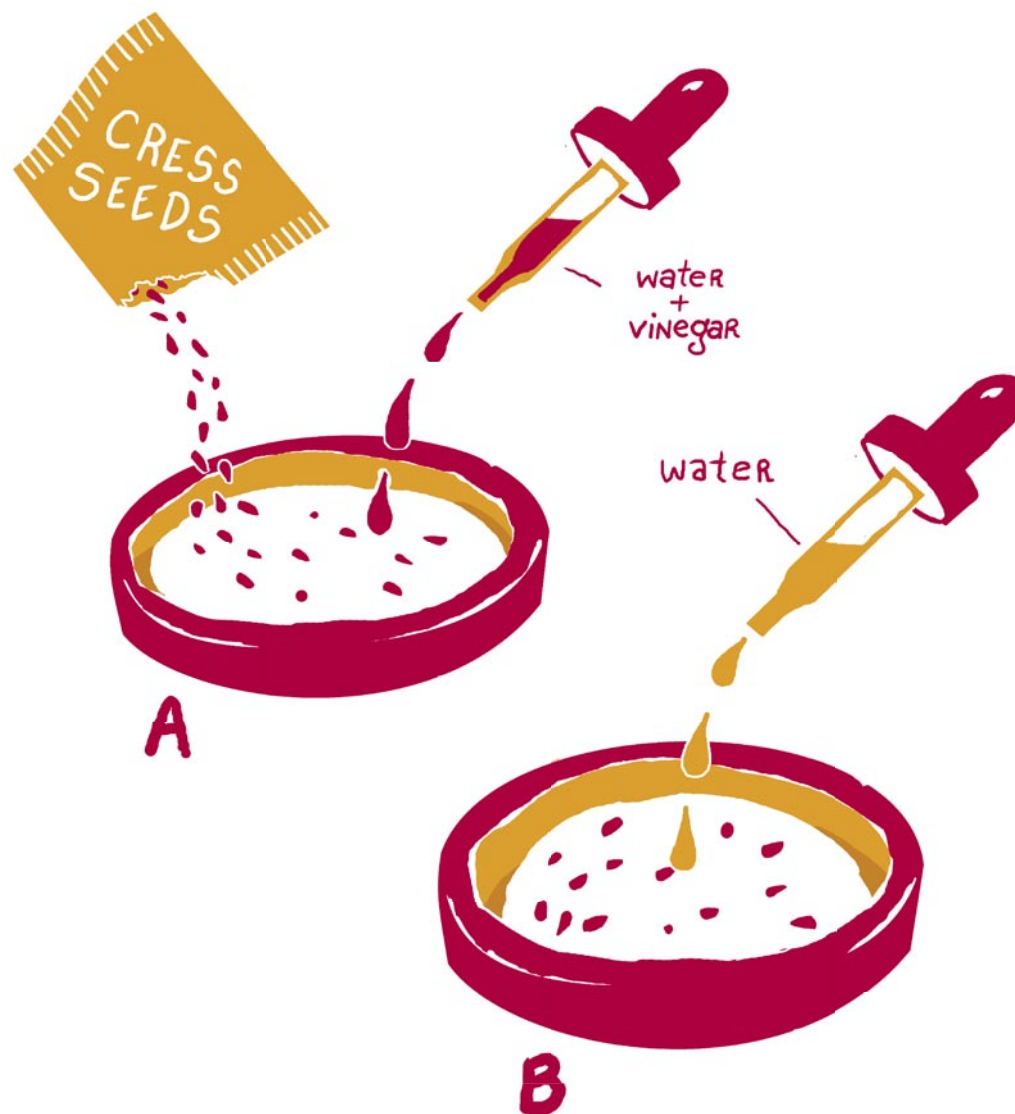
YOU WILL NEED Two jam jar lids •
A packet of cress seeds •
Cotton wool pads •
Slightly diluted vinegar •

- 1 Place the cotton wool pads onto the two jam jar lids.
- 2 Dampen each of the cotton wool pads with some water.
- 3 Sprinkle some cress seeds onto each lid.
- 4 During the next two weeks, water the seeds on lid A with water containing a few drops of vinegar.
- 5 Water the seeds on lid B with bottled water.
- 6 Over time, observe the seeds grow. You could make diagrams of the growth in your journal.
- 7 Make sure that you keep the cotton wool pad in each lid moist.

Consider this

Which cress seeds grow better?

What effect does the acid from the vinegar have on the growth of the seeds?



Tell Me More!

Acid rain occurs when the sulphur dioxide gas from burning fossil fuels mixes with the rainwater in clouds. The mixture produces an acidic solution - sulphuric acid, which is acid rain. Acid rain causes damage to plants and buildings and is responsible for extensive damage to a number of evergreen trees in Northern European countries.