

# SAVE THE DANDELIONS

MOM's annual "Save the Dandelions" campaign helps raise awareness on the effects that toxic lawn chemicals have on our environment, wildlife, pollinators, and health.

## FACTS

- ANNUALLY, 33, 500 TONS OF PESTICIDES & 3 MILLION TONS OF FERTILIZERS ARE USED ON U.S. LAWNS.
- OF 30 COMMONLY USED LAWN PESTICIDES: 16 ARE TOXIC TO BIRDS, 24 ARE TOXIC TO AQUATIC ORGANISMS, AND 11 ARE TOXIC TO BEES.
- RUNOFF FROM SYNTHETIC LAWN CARE CHEMICALS POLLUTES STREAMS, LAKES, AND GROUNDWATER, CAUSING ALGAE BLOOMS AND DEPLETED OXYGEN LEVELS.
- TO FERTILIZE, ADD COMPOST OR WORM CASTINGS AND LEAVE GRASS CLIPPING ON YOUR LAWN AFTER MOWING
- USE NATURAL PESTICIDES LIKE CEDAR, NEEM, CITRUS OIL, CAYENNE PEPPER, OR EUCALYPTUS OIL
- KILL WEEDS NATURALLY WITH APPLE CIDER VINEGAR, TABLE SALT, DISH SOAP, OR BOILING WATER



## SCIENCE EXPERIMENT

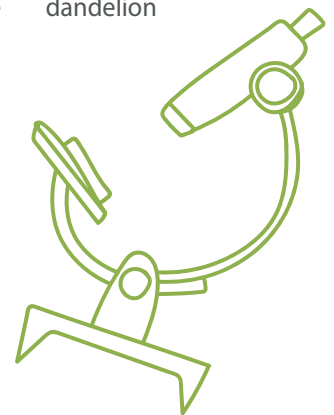
### MATERIALS

- Clear glass jars, cups or small clear vase
- Fresh Celery stalks with leaves. (Preferably the lighter leafier stalks near the center.)
- Water
- Food Coloring

### STEPS

- 1) Explain experiment- "We are going to find out how plants absorb water."
- 2) Separate and select stalks of celery with leaves. Cut ~ a quarter-inch off the bottom. The lighter stalks near the center will show the most color.
- 3) Put ~8 ounces of water into a glass jar.
- 4) Drop 3-4 drops of food coloring into the jar.
- 5) Place the stalks into the water and stir very gently until food coloring is dispersed evenly.
- 6) Have your child make predictions about what will happen. Write a simple hypothesis sentence (If...then... because...).
- 7) Make 2-3 observations and write them down. Check at intervals depending on availability, you will see slight results after 3 hours, significant results overnight, and again at 48 hours.
- 8) Cut the bottom of the celery and you can see where the water was transported up the stem.

The food coloring in the experiment illustrates how nutrients (or pesticides and fertilizers) are delivered to plants through a process called transpiration.



COLORING PAGE:

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