Kitchen Scrap Garden

As you’re prepping Thanksgiving dinner, save a few bits and try to regrow new plant life from your kitchen scraps!

Collect

- Vegetable scraps
  - Green onions (scallions)
  - Bunch of celery
  - A turnip, beet, or carrot
  - A potato
- A few drinking glasses and shallow glass bowls
- Water

Start your scraps

1. Cut off the green parts of the scallions, leaving about 1” of the white root end. Place the root end into a drinking glass with the roots at the bottom of the glass. Fill the glass with enough water to cover the roots.
2. Cut off the celery stalks just above the base. Place the roots into a shallow glass bowl. Add just enough water to cover the bottom of the bowl.
3. Cut the top off a turnip, beet, or carrot where the greens would be. Fill the glass with enough water to cover the tops about halfway.
4. Cut off a small piece of potato that has one or two ‘eyes’ on it. Place the potato cut-side down in a shallow glass bowl. Add just enough water to cover the bottom of the bowl.
5. Place all glasses and bowls in a sunny spot like a windowsill.

Observe the new growth

Check daily for new growth and to refill the water. How long does it take for you to notice new growth? Do some scraps start to grow faster than others?

Harvest your bounty!

After several days, you should notice some definite progress! At this point you can either harvest the new growth, or replant the scraps in some soil.

How does it work?

The three components needed to generate plant life are water, sunlight, and soil. Some vegetable scraps are easy to regrow because their roots quickly soak up water. This makes it possible for these plants to begin growing with only water and sunlight. However, eventually all plants need the nutrients found in soil for further growth.