

## How to Grow Rice in a Bucket

1. You may rub off the awns (long, thin hairy antennae like bristles on the heads of the seeds), as they are no longer necessary for seedling emergence. Soak the rice seeds in a small jar of fresh water at room temperature for about 3 days, or until you see the seeds have broken dormancy (see # 3 below).
2. Fill a 5-gallon bucket (or other container) with no holes, to about 3" from the rim with soil from your garden or potting soil to create a mini rice paddy.
3. When a tiny white sprout (usually the budding shoot of the first stem or leaf) appears at one end of the seed (opposite the awn end), place 2-3 seeds in the soil about ½ inch deep. Do this before the budding sprout extends beyond 1/16th of an inch (1.5 mm), so the seed can properly orient itself to the soil below and the light above.
4. Set outside, in a windowsill, or other sunny place.
5. Keep the soil moist until the seedlings emerge, watering every day.
6. In about 10 days, the seedlings should first appear as small green vertical spears emerging out of the soil.
7. Continue to water regularly, and as the plant grows keep water above the soil line but below the top of the plant.
8. In about 3 months, flowering stalks (panicles) will emerge from fattening stems. The individual green flowers will fill with grain milk and continue to mature into ripening grain through late summer.
9. Talk, sing, dance, or otherwise commune with your rice plant as it grows.