

Chapter 1 : How to Grow and Process Tobacco (with Pictures) - wikiHow

How to Grow and Process Tobacco. In this Article: Sowing Tobacco Seeds Growing Tobacco Plants Indoors Harvesting and Curing Tobacco Leaves Community Q&A Most of today's tobacco is grown and processed commercially, but it's easy to grow tobacco in your own home or garden.

Share Tweet Growing tobacco indoors takes a bit of care. Tobacco seeds are very tiny and can easily be damaged. They are among the smallest seeds of plants grown indoors. Some seeds are grown for snuff, pipe and cigar tobacco. Each of these products requires a different variety of seeds. Photo by biologycorner To grow tobacco indoors, be aware that these plants require more watering than other indoor plants might. Choose planting pots that are at least two gallons in size. This prevents the roots of the plant from crowding in the soil. For tobacco plants to fully mature, they need plenty of heat and light. Choose a sunny, warm location indoors that provides a copious amount of sunlight and heat. Obtain additional light or a heat with plant lamps. Tobacco seeds also need soil rich in nutrients. Add fertilizer rich in nitrogen and potash to the planting soil before sowing seeds. Allow the soil to rest for a week before planting. Tobacco Seed Germination and Growing Tips Tobacco seeds will germinate in approximately five to seven days. Due to the size of tobacco leaves, plant two to three seeds at least six inches apart in pots, on top of the soil. Once tobacco plants take root and leaves begin to grow, remove smaller leaves and offshoots. This helps increase the growth in the major portions of the plant. Tobacco plants also produce pretty flowers in yellow, purple and red. Some indoor tobacco growers often include tobacco additives to their growing process. Indoor Tobacco Plants Indoor tobacco plants require special care including frequent watering, light and heat profusion, rich soil and room for growth. Even with the additional care, indoor tobacco growers find these plants to be an interesting addition to their indoor gardens. They enjoy more control over the organic composition of the tobacco they harvest from their plants. Indoor tobacco planting is an answer to the high cost of tobacco products at present. How to Create a Miniature Tobacco Plant Indoor garden lovers are always concerned about space with their garden plants. One way to avoid excess growth with tobacco plants grown indoors is to train them to grow smaller. This is a technique used for Bonsai trees. To do this, simply begin to remove no more than one-third of the root system. This can be done when replanting to a new pot or, when separating roots to create new tobacco plants. Roots of tobacco plants are sturdy enough to withstand minimal root cuttings. Begin to cut the roots of the first plant and place in a new planting pot. Plant the new roots at least three inches into the soil. As with all tobacco seeds, plant atop the soil in a warm, sunny place. As they begin to reduce in size, they will grow easily in half gallon pots. Freshly Grown Tobacco The aroma of freshly grown tobacco is unmistakable. Coupled with the pretty flowers and large lush leaves, growing tobacco plants indoors makes a nice change from the usual types of indoor house plants. Note that there are quite a number of specialty varieties available for sale online at [http:](http://) These are referred to as heirloom tobacco gardens. Many of these varieties are hybridized to meet specific traditional tobacco properties highly prized by tobacco lovers for generations. Purchase seeds for these varieties online to start an heirloom tobacco garden. Grown Tobacco Indoors in Any Climate Since growing tobacco indoors has become so popular in recent years, it can be grown indoors in any climate with the right care. For these indoor gardens, invest in plant lights, heaters and fine spray misters to insure the proper growing environment. Freshly Grown Tobacco for Your Pleasure Once the indoor tobacco grower is accustomed to the needs of tobacco plants, the process of growing tobacco indoors grows simpler and easier. Freshly grown tobacco is a luxury to be enjoyed for personal pleasure or to present to others as gifts. Save several cuttings to replant in decorative pots to be used for gifts for family or friends who are interested in growing their own tobacco. These make wonderful gifts for a groom, employer or fellow co-worker. Study the drying process for cigarettes, cigars and snuff for your own smoking needs. There are online guides available for harvesting, processing and drying tobacco from indoor plants. Study these to learn more about the final phase of growing tobacco indoors. Then, sit back and enjoy the freedom of your personal tobacco brand handpicked freshly from your indoor garden.

Chapter 2 : Tobacco Leaf Harvesting Curing and Fermenting.

Virginia tobacco, the stuff of commerce, is one of the hardiest plants you'll ever grow. If where you live is warm enough to grow cabbage, tobacco will thrive.

Curing Tobacco Leaves Why should I cure my tobacco? Curing tobacco is a means of removing any unpleasant smell that uncured tobacco has. During my younger years, it was common practise of mine to pick up the ripened brown tobacco leaf that had fallen from the lower stem onto the ground, roll it into a cigarette and smoke it. Other allotment holders would sample the leaf with enjoyment. I would further mention that one particular year I was late pulling up the stems after removing all the large leaf. It was after a frost had turned all the small leaf on the plant dark brown. I tried to see if this brown tobacco leaf could be smoked: I have never followed this idea through, but how about one of you readers of this site giving it a try? My next attempt at curing tobacco required a greenhouse. I calculated that it would require the whole of the British summer to cure the leaf. Because of this the curing took place the following summer after growing the crop. The principle was to suspend a plastic sheet holding water near the top of the greenhouse. A small fan blew across the water, raising the humidity in the air. This system worked and is shown in my instructions, but I needed a system that would work much faster. You should avoid using wooden tobacco curing chambers as the smell of the wood will be absorbed into the tobacco. Further down this page I give full instructions for building your own portable tobacco curing chamber, just like the one in the picture above, that will cure 18 kilos 40 pounds of tobacco leaves in just 4 weeks. This chamber can be scaled up or down depending on the size of your tobacco crop. Historical info Hundreds of years ago, tobacco was smoked in pipes or was ground into snuff to be rubbed into the gums. Tobacco curing was unheard of. The first clues to curing tobacco came from the old sailing ships that brought tobacco to Europe from the West Indies. The ships were in at sea for several weeks with tobacco on board. They were also in port for two or three weeks while the tobacco was loaded and unloaded. The heat and humidity were high and together with the salt air caused a natural fermentation in the bails of tobacco. By the time the tobacco reached our shores it was partially cured. From this, many different techniques for curing tobacco have been developed. Drying and Colour Curing The first stages in curing your tobacco leaves are the drying and colour curing of your tobacco to remove moisture and turn the leaf brown. Whilst drying, Virginia tobacco leaves will turn yellow and then brown. Green stemmed tobacco plants such as Havanna take longer to colour change and tend to go straight from green to brown. Commercial tobacco companies put their tobacco leaves in large open-ended barns to allow the warm breeze to blow through and draw off the moisture. For the home grower, you can hang your tobacco leaves on canes or galvanised wire in a car port or other sheltered outdoor area. I normally hang my tobacco under overhead grapevines which shelter the tobacco leaves from the rain. You can dry your tobacco indoors, but control the temperature carefully to avoid drying the tobacco too quickly. If you dry your tobacco too quickly, some of the green pigment may remain. The drying and colour curing of your tobacco is complete when the tobacco leaves have turned brown, and the mid-rib is bone dry and brittle. There is no quick way to dry out your tobacco leaves. Ovens, microwaves and freezers do not really help and the best way to dry and colour cure your tobacco is to dry it naturally. You can speed up the process slightly by crushing the mid-rib, but be warned that the sap in the mid-rib is like an acid to the other tobacco leaves. If you crush the mid-rib, you must hang your tobacco up within a couple of hours. Another way to speed up the drying and colour change process of your tobacco leaves is to stack them and cover them with a blanket or a rug to keep the heat in. The tobacco leaves will then sweat like compost, which speeds up the colour change. The pile needs turning daily, with the inner leaves moved to the outside. Damp leaves will need to be allowed to dry off before being put back into the pile. After about 5 days, the tobacco leaves can be hung out to dry as normal. You could also lay the tobacco leaves out on the grass on a hot sunny day and they will dry within hours. You may be lucky enough to have green leaves turn completely brown. The main drawback to this method is that because the leaves are drying, they are losing their moisture. This makes them much lighter and one small gust of wind can carry your dried tobacco leaves away. As a result of this experience, I can now provide you with instructions for building your own

very cheap and very effective portable tobacco curing chamber. The aim of curing tobacco is to sweat the obnoxious smell from the tobacco leaves. To make tobacco leaves sweat you need to create a warm and humid environment. My portable tobacco curing chamber is ideal for this. For the sides of the tobacco curing chamber, I used sheets of 2-inch thick polystyrene. To provide heat, I used an oil-filled electric heater. You will find most oil-filled electric heaters will have thermostats set to cut out at much lower temperatures. You should be able to replace the thermostat on oil filled radiators with a clamp-on water heater thermostat. You can heat at lower temperatures, but your tobacco will take much longer to cure. Moisture needs to be raised inside the tobacco curing chamber to keep the leaf flexible but not wet. A humidifier is ideal for this. Humidifiers are little more than water tanks with a fan to blow a fine mist of water into the air. Mine holds 6 litres of water and uses 5 litres every 24 hours. Hold the base, sides and top of the curing chamber together with double sided carpet tape or other strong tapes. Cut an opening in one side to act as a door. Use tape as a hinge to keep the door closed. Finally, drill a 2 inch hole at the base of the chamber to allow fresh air in and another hole near the top to allow the smell to escape. If you fit a length of hose from the top hole to outdoors then the smell can escape without affecting your home. When the unpleasant smell has gone, your tobacco has cured and is ready to smoke, although leaving your tobacco to mature over the years will improve the tobacco flavour. The whole tobacco curing process should take about 4 weeks. The cost of running the curing chamber is minimal as the chamber is made from thick polystyrene which will retain heat. The thermostat on the heater inside the curing chamber will cut in and out only as required, so only minimal heat is required. Humidifiers cost very little to run.

Chapter 3 : How To Grow Tobacco and Why You Should Grow It | The Survival Gardener

for information about growing tobacco plants, curing the leaves, flavouring the produce and making cigarettes from that produce, click the above link. FOR TALK ABOUT THE INIQUITIES OF THE TOBACCO CONTROL INDUSTRY IN THE UK AND THE WORLD, PLEASE VISIT THE BOLTON SMOKERS CLUB.

Get seeds These can be obtained from one of several seed companies specializing in tobacco; try searching for them on the Internet. Start the seeds in flower pots in a greenhouse or protected area 60 days before they are to be transplanted to a garden. Keep the soil moist but not wet. Transplant When the shoots are about inches in length and frost danger is past, they should go into a sunny location in the garden, spaced about two feet apart. The soil should have a pH around 5. If lime is needed to raise the pH, use dolomite in order to get the magnesium nutrient which is important for plant growth. Poor growth and some growth disorders may occur if the soil pH is about 6. Avoid planting tobacco on soil infested with nematodes and diseases. Do not plant tobacco on the same soil more than once every four to five years. Instead, rotate the tobacco with plants that are not susceptible to common soil-borne pests of tobacco. Fertilize Fertilizers for tobacco could be the same fertilizers used for tomato, pepper, or potato. As in plant production, the fertilizer should contain little or no chlorine and most of the nitrogen should be in the nitrate form. In general, it would be best to apply the fertilizer in several applications. Some could be applied to the soil before transplanting, but do not place it where it will be in high concentration around the roots of the transplants. The total amount of fertilizer to apply will depend on the grade of the fertilizer, the natural or residual fertility of the soil, losses of soluble nutrients by leaching, and perhaps other factors. A tobacco fertilizer should contain little or no chlorine and most of the nitrogen should be in the nitrate form. Fertilizer manufactured for use on tomato, pepper, and potato should be satisfactory for tobacco. If adequately fertilized up to the time of flowering, there should be no need to add any more fertilizer after the flowers begin to form. Irrigate Keep the plants well-watered without getting the soil soggy. Drought stress could limit growth on excessively drained soils unless irrigation is provided. Lack of sun will result in spindly plants, poor growth and thin leaves. Some types of tobacco such as that used for cigar wrappers are grown under some shade to promote desirable leaf characteristics. Control pests Avoid nematode and other soil pest problems by proper soil selection and rotation. Weeds can be controlled by hoeing or pulling. The most common insect problems expected would be budworms, aphids and hornworms. Diseases that damage tobacco may include those that attack other plants or they may be specific pathogens for tobacco. Identify the pest problem and consult the appropriate pest control guide for information. Topping and Suckering Tobacco should normally be topped as soon as the flower forms. Topping, or removal of the terminal bud, allows the upper leaves to get larger and thicker than they would in an uptopped condition. The top can be removed by breaking it out or cutting it off, preferably before any flowers open. Soon after the top is removed before, if topping is delayed, axillary buds or suckers develop at each leaf. These will reduce yield and quality if not removed by hand when they exceed about an inch in length. Harvesting and Curing A deterrent to home production of tobacco is the need to age the cured tobacco for one to three years or longer. Tobacco may be cured with heat added or it may be air cured. There does not appear to be any practical means for the gardener to use heat to cure the tobacco because of the facilities that are required. Some producers of home-grown tobacco have built curing facilities and may offer them for sale. Tobacco could be cured without heat if a building with good air circulation is available. Proper curing should take a few weeks in order to have good quality. Tobacco that cures too fast will be green and not have good aroma and flavor, while mold or rot may develop if curing is slow. A building that can be opened and closed as needed to control the relative humidity and drying rate is desirable. Curing procedures need to be developed for individual situations. Tobacco can be harvested by either removing leaves from the stalk in the field and curing them or by cutting the stalk off at ground level and hanging the entire stalk in the curing facility for the leaves to cure. The leaves would then be removed from the stalk after they have cured. If the leaves are removed in the field, there should be four or five harvests at intervals of weeks, starting with the lower leaves. The first harvest would be at or soon after topping and when the leaves show a slight yellowing. If the entire

stalk is cut for curing, it should be about weeks after topping. The lower leaves would be partially deteriorated at this time. Provide adequate space between stalks to allow for satisfactory drying of the leaves. Aging All commercial tobacco is aged for a year or more before it is used. Unaged tobacco is harsh and does not have good flavor. For the home gardener, aging will probably be at least as difficult as proper curing. Aging may require as long as years and does not occur unless temperature and moisture conditions are favorable. If the tobacco is too dry, there is no aging; if it is too moist, the leaves will rot. Unfortunately the proper temperature and moisture content vary widely. The home producer would need the knowledge and skill to properly age the tobacco or be willing to experiment with the process. The same would be true for adding flavoring agents during or after aging and before the tobacco is used.

Chapter 4 : Growing Tobacco At Home | Rollitup

Growing tobacco is pretty easy. I've grown tobacco for almost a decade in my home garden. Though my method may not be the best, it works well for me and has been tweaked over the years into a pretty fail-safe operation.

I was posting on the older thread called "anyone grow tobacco" or something like that, but it looks like it pretty much petered out. I will start with a very quick overview and go into more details later. Tobacco is an annual crop that is generally field grown. The seeds are started indoors weeks before the last average frost date in most parts of the US, much like tomatoes, and transplants are planted in the field usually 2 feet apart in the row, with rows 3 feet apart. You can grow tobacco successfully in a suburban setting in gallon pots. There are many strains or varieties of tobacco which are grown for specific uses. Some are used in cigarettes, others as cigar or pipe tobacco. There are chew, dip, snus, snuff and specialty tobaccos you can grow. The plants range from 6 - 8 feet tall and you can expect to harvest mature, foot long leaves from each plant. A good estimate for the final dry weight is 3 oz per plant. Roughly 6 oz of tobacco per carton. Tobacco is harvested either by cutting and hanging the whole stalk or by what is called "priming", pulling the bottom-most leaves as they start to yellow. Tobacco does not go stale or bad with age. The reason that commercial cigs go "stale" is because of the additives they put in them which are organic oils and those will become rancid over time. Processing tobacco depends on the use required. You can shred it finely for cigs. More roughly for cigars. Very rough cut for chew. You can flavor it with honey or other sweet stuff, or with whiskey, cherry or almost flavor you like! Tobacco seeds are very tiny. I hope this is valuable for everyone here interested in growing their own tobacco at home.

Chapter 5 : EBook Growing and Processing Tobacco At Home

Growing and processing tobacco at home teaches you how to raise your own quality tobacco. Today's commercial tobacco products are loaded with chemicals and fillers and non-tobacco products. Your first all natural cigar or cigarette will be a pleasure you will not forget.

The oldest known method in use is simply cutting off the stalk at the ground using a curved knife. The other way to harvest tobacco leaves originated in the nineteenth century. They started to harvest the tobacco plant by pulling individual leaves off the stalk as they ripened, tobacco leaves ripen from the ground upward, so tobacco plant may be pulled several different times before the tobacco plant is entirely harvested. This is also known as "Cropping" or "Priming". These are terms used for pulling leaves off tobacco. The first crop at the very bottom of the stalks are called "sand lugs" as they are often against the ground and are coated with dirt splashed up when it rains. Curing Tobacco Leaves Tobacco farmers refer to the drying of the leaf as curing. There are 3 main ways of curing tobacco. Curing methods vary with the type of tobacco grown. The tobacco barn design varies accordingly. Air-cured Tobacco Leaves Air-cured tobacco is carried out by hanging the tobacco in a well-ventilated barns, where the tobacco is allowed to dry over a period of four to eight weeks. Air-cured tobacco is generally low in sugar content, which gives the tobacco smoke a light, smooth, semi-sweet flavor. These tobacco leaves usually have a high nicotine content. All flue-cured barns have flues which run from external fed fire boxes, which heat-cures the tobacco without exposing it to smoke, slowly raising the temperature over the course of the curing process. The procedure will generally take about a week. Flue-cured tobacco generally produces cigarette tobacco. Cigarette tobacco usually has a high content of sugar, with medium to high levels of nicotine. Sun-cured Tobacco Leaves Most to all sun-cured tobacco comes from countries that produce oriental leaves, such as Turkey, Greece, and the Republic of Macedonia. The sun-cured tobacco process works just how it sounds. The tobacco is placed in the sun uncovered, and is dried out naturally. Generally, oriental tobacco is low in sugar and nicotine and is very popular for cigarettes. It can be done by heaping the tobacco into large piles called pylons that raise the temperature and humidity, or by use of a kiln with a heater and humidifier. Under the raised temperature and humidity, enzymes in the leaf cause it to ferment. It is not necessary to spray a fermenting solution on the leaf as some suggest - the enzymes will do it naturally. Sometimes this is also referred to as curing. This system of maturing tobacco leaves came from the days when tobacco was shipped by sail. The ship would sit in port for a few weeks, with very humid temperatures and bails stacked tight together. There are two methods of fermenting, stacking and kiln fermenting. Stacking The stacking tobacco fermentation method is used by large growers. Stacks of tobacco weighing around lbs each are wrapped in burlap and allowed to "sweat". The internal temperature is closely monitored. When it reaches degrees, the stack is broken down to release tar, ammonia, and nicotine. The stack is torn down and rebuilt several times until the temp will no longer reach degrees. The stems are they stripped and stacked in a cooler place 65 degrees to age for a time 6 weeks to 6 years. Kiln fermenting This is what the smaller grower must use if he or she wants to smoke the fruits of their harvest any time soon. The kiln is a small, insulated container with an artificial heat source that helps to simulate the fermentation. The leaves are placed in the kiln with the lid shut. Kiln fermenting lasts about 4 to 6 weeks and the relative humidity must be carefully maintained during this time. A short aging period will follow of 4 to 6 weeks or longer until the leaves can either be rolled into cigars or cut for cigarette, pipe, or chewing tobacco. If still too wet lower the humidity. If you put a hygrometer in the chamber you will find that at 70 percent relative humidity they will be very pliable but dry. Smoking uncured tobacco is unpleasant and dangerous as the nicotine and ammonia contained can be fatally high, not to mention it will taste like your smoking leaves from your front yard.

Chapter 6 : Build Your Own Tobacco Curing Chamber and How to Cure Tobacco

How to grow and process tobacco at home for personal use. This is a non-commercial hobby website.

Growing tobacco is legal but can become quite a strenuous process, so follow these steps to grow your own tobacco. Steps Understanding Soil Conditions and Climate 1 Know that tobacco leaf will grow in almost every type of soil. Tobacco is an extremely hardy plant. It grows pretty much where any other agricultural crop will grow, although, as a rule of thumb, tobacco grows better in soils which drain well. The important thing to note is that tobacco will be extremely affected by the soil in which it is grown; lighter soils will generally produce lighter colored tobacco, while darker soils will generally produce darker colored tobacco. Tobacco requires a frost-free period of 3 to 4 months between transplant and harvest. Part 2 Planting and Transplanting Tobacco 1 Sprinkle tobacco seeds onto the surface of a sterile seed starting mix and lightly water. Be sure you place your starting mix in a small flower pot, preferably with holes in the bottom. These seeds should be grown indoors for weeks. They are available at most gardening and home improvement stores. Tobacco seeds are extremely small not much larger than a pin prick , so be sure not to sow them too thickly. Allow adequate spacing between seeds to avoid overcrowding. Also, their nutrient requirements are different from many other plants, so adding a bit of gravel or special fertilizer designed for tobacco is a good idea. Tobacco seeds require warm temperatures ranging from degrees Fahrenheit to properly germinate. Do not cover the seeds with soil since they need light for germination; covering can slow down and even prevent germination from taking place. Seeds should begin to germinate in days. The soil should never be allowed to completely dry out. Be extra careful when watering because the force of the water can uproot the freshly emerging tobacco seedlings and cause them to die. If you used a flower pot with holes in the bottom, set the pot on top of a tray of water. Leave it there for a few seconds so that the water is absorbed by the soil. This will water the seedling without wetting the leaves. Your seedlings should be large enough for transplantation if you watered and stored them correctly. Transplanting seedlings to a larger container will allow them to grow a strong and healthy root system. To see if your seedlings are the right size, try grasping them. If you can easily pinch them between your thumb and index finger, they are ready for transplanting. If they are still too small, allow the germination process to continue until they have reached the right size. Transplanting tobacco plants bare-root without soil directly from the seedling pot to the garden is an easier method, as it only involves one transplantation. However, once planted, the bare-rooted plant can go into "transplant shock" where some or most of its largest leaves turn yellow and wilt. After a week, the tobacco plant will begin to flourish once more, but avoiding transplant shock altogether will save you a week of waiting as the potted plant will begin growing immediately once transplanted. This should be sufficient food for the plants until they are ready to be transferred to your garden in approximately weeks. If your plant begins to look yellow or look stunted, another dose of fertilizer may be needed. Do so sparingly, however, since over-fertilization while in pots may burn the plants roots or lead to overgrown, spindly plants. Be sure the area you plant the tobacco is constantly exposed to sun, well-drained, and tilled. Lack of sun will result in spindly plants, poor growth, and thin leaves. This may not be problematic if you intend on planting tobacco for cigar wrapper use, since growing tobacco under shade can create desirable leaf characteristics. The soil itself should have a pH of 5. Poor growth and some growth disorders may occur if the soil pH is 6. Nematodes are parasitic worms which feed on tobacco and are extremely difficult to exterminate once infestation occurs. Space the plants at least 2â€³3 feet 0. Tobacco plants are "heavy feeders," meaning they will deplete the nutrients in the soil in about 2 years. To counteract this, employ a 2 year rotation in your growing space by planting for 2 years in a different location and waiting 1 year before transferring it back to its original location. Once they become better established, you can water less frequently to avoid over-watering. Keep the plants well watered without making the soil soggy. If your garden area may experience drought, consider installing an irrigation system. This will prevent the soil from becoming excessively dry, which can then hinder tobacco growth. Fertilizers used for tomatoes, peppers, and potatoes are also suitable. The application amount will depend largely on the grade of the fertilizer, the natural fertility of the soil, losses of nutrients due to leaching, and other subjective factors. It is recommended that you

apply the fertilizer several times. Once the tobacco begins to flower, there should be no need to fertilize further. Topping is the removal of the terminal center bud and allows the upper leaves to get larger and thicker than if they were untopped. Soon after the top is removed, axillary buds or suckers will develop at each leaf. You can also pull up soil around the base of the plant to help strengthen it. Be careful when tilling or hoeing, as penetrating the soil too deep can damage the roots. After weeks from planting, heavy tilling should be stopped and only light scrapings to control weeds should be done. Common tobacco pests include budworms, hornworms, and pathogens. Tobacco is subject to infestation by many different bugs and diseases. The rotation process should help reduce the likelihood of infestation, but it is no guarantee. If you still find your tobacco to be infested, many gardening and home improvement stores sell tobacco-specific pesticides. Brand names include "Nemacor," "Prowl," and "Admire. Find a pesticide which is most suitable to your situation.

Part 4 Harvesting and Curing Tobacco

1 Cut your tobacco plants at the stalk while keeping the leaves attached. Alternatively, you can remove the leaves from the stalk in the field. Your plants should be ready for harvest about 3 months after planting. Stalks should be cut about weeks after topping. The lower leaves will be partially deteriorated at this time. If you remove the leaves in the field, there should be 4 or 5 harvests at intervals of weeks, starting with the lower leaves. The first harvest should start soon after topping and when the leaves show a slight yellowing. Flowers will inhibit the growth of your leaves and will compete for sunlight; removing them is important for obtaining the broadest tobacco leaves possible. You will need to keep the leaves intact because they will be hanged during the curing process. Curing is necessary because it prepares the leaves for consumption; the process produces various compounds in the leaf which give cured tobacco its hay, tea, rose oil, or fruity aromatic flavor. The suggested temperature for curing ranges from 65 degrees to 95 degrees Fahrenheit, while the most optimal humidity ranges from percent. Proper curing should take a few weeks in order to achieve good quality. Tobacco that cures too fast will be green and will likely not have good aroma or flavor. Leaves that cure too slow may develop mold or rot. If curing leaves on the stalk, remove the leaves from the stalk once curing has completed. A building that can be opened and closed as needed to control the humidity and drying rate is ideal. Some producers of homegrown tobacco have built curing facilities and may offer them for sale. Tobacco can also be cured using fire, the sun, or can be flue-cured. Fire-cured tobacco typically takes between weeks and is used to make pipe tobacco and chewing tobacco. Sun-cured and flue-cured tobacco is used in cigarettes. Commercial tobacco is typically aged for a year or more, but aging your own tobacco can take up to years. Aging will not occur if the temperature and moisture content is perfect. If the tobacco is too dry, it will not age; if it is too moist, it will rot. Unfortunately, the proper temperature and humidity vary widely and will require some experimentation on your part. Monitor your leaves closely during the aging process to ensure that they remain moist, yet rot free. Aging is not an exact science and will require impromptu adjustments when necessary.

Chapter 7 : Tobacco Growing Made Easy - How to Grow your Own Tobacco and Roll Smoke at Home

Tobacco is art, and to some -a lifestyle, there is no way for one man to know all there is about the subject, but I know plenty about growing it at home, so feel free to ask questions in the comments.

Reviewed Why choose wikiHow? When you see the green checkmark on a wikiHow article, you know that the article has received careful review. In this case, the article went through multiple rounds of research, revisions, and review by our trained team of writers and editors. While it does take time for it to finish curing, you can have homegrown tobacco that saves you money in the long run. Steps Sowing Tobacco Seeds 1 Fill a cell tray with potting soil. Purchase a cell tray from any gardening store. A tray with drainage holes at the bottom of each cell will work best so the seeds are not waterlogged as they grow. Fill the cells to the top with potting soil that is rich in nutrients. Tobacco seeds are amongst the tiniest seeds you can purchase and plant. Pour the seeds onto a white piece of paper so you can clearly see how many you have and easily keep control of them. Rather than trying to plant each seed individually, gently tap a group of seeds. They should easily stick to your finger and you can see how many you are preparing to plant. Rub your fingers together to drop the seeds into each cell of the tray. Aim for the center of the cell so seedlings do not crowd around the edges. Seedlings growing around the edges could limit root growth for each plant. Watering will help the seeds embed slightly into the soil. Spray them lightly so the seeds are not pushed around by the force of the water. Wet the topsoil until it is moist, but not so that water is left standing on the surface. The water will come through the drainage holes at the bottom of each cell. Bottom watering helps promote downward root growth as your seeds start to germinate. A cheap plastic tray or container can be used for this. When the soil feels dry to the touch, refill the container with water. Tobacco seeds will germinate better if they are kept away from any light. Use aluminum foil or any other opaque cover for your seed tray to block the light. Leave room between the soil and the aluminum so air can circulate. Tobacco seeds usually germinate within the first 3 or 4 days after sowing them. The heat will effectively make a miniature greenhouse for your seeds. Check the seeds each day for sprouts. Once you see small sprouts in each cell, remove the aluminum foil cover and keep the sprouts on a windowsill so they can receive light throughout the day. After 2 weeks, pick out any seedlings that are growing near the edge of a cell or have grown crooked and sideways. Leave about 5 seedlings in each cell so they will not be overcrowded as they continue to grow. Pre-moisten the potting soil in a 2 gallons 7. If the tobacco plant starts to droop or wilts to one side, use a wooden barbecue skewer to support it upright. Find a fertilizer at your local gardening store that does not contain chlorine and provides nitrogen to your plant in the form of nitrate. Since tobacco is in the same family as tomatoes and peppers, fertilizers manufactured for their use will work just as well. Follow the directions on the package to determine how much fertilizer to use. The more sunlight your plant gets, the larger it will grow. Tobacco plants need full sun throughout the day, so keep them near a large window. If the weather does not drop below freezing, you can also keep them outside during the day and return them inside at night. As tobacco grows, it will require more water. Check the soil daily and keep it moist with a watering can. Excessive water will promote diseases like bed rot or mildew to form in the roots. Once a flower forms and blooms, the tobacco will stop growing for the season and reduce your total yield. To keep your plant growing, use a pair of pruning shears to cut off the flowers before they blossom. Soon after you remove the flowers from the tobacco plant, the bottom leaves will start to yellow and deteriorate. Use a pair of pruning shears or scissors to remove the lowest leaves on the plant. Starting from the bottom, remove leaves as they turn yellow every 2 weeks. Tie a string to the stems of the tobacco leaves and hang them to dry. Leave space in between the leaves so they can dry out. The leaves should stay soft and move around easily without being crinkled or flaky. As they lose moisture, the leaves will start to turn yellow and brown. Aging and curing tobacco helps the leaves get rid of their herby flavor and makes them taste more desirable. Hang the tobacco where the humidity is consistently around 65 percent. The process can take up to 8 weeks, and the longer you wait, the better it may taste. During this time, the leaves will brown and start to feel leathery to the touch. You can age the tobacco for up to 3 years for the flavor to fully develop. The leaves should easily pull away from the stem. Once the tobacco is dried and cured to your liking, put the leaves in a

blender to shred it finely. This will make it easier for you to roll it into a cigarette or smoke in a pipe. If tobacco loses its moisture, it will lose some of its flavor. Storing tobacco in an airtight jar will help preserve the flavor for the longest amount of time.

Chapter 8 : How to Grow and Cure Tobacco at Home | Dengarden

Hi --I started this thread to help people grow their own tobacco at home and stop paying the outrageous taxes that make it so expensive. I was posting on the older thread called "anyone grow tobacco" or something like that, but it looks like it pretty much petered out.

There is simply no escaping the fact that the production of tobacco products like cigarettes, cigars or rolling tobacco is not done in a way that will ensure the end product is not harmful for the consumer. In fact, the only REAL way to ensure you know exactly how the tobacco you are smoking is produced is to grow and harvest it yourself. I am going to reveal to you exactly how to grow and harvest your own tobacco, which is both fun and satisfying, but first let me ask you a very important question: Please tick the boxes below that apply to you - be honest

The harmful by-products of the mass production process. The high cost of off the shelf tobacco products. The insane taxes added to off the shelf tobacco products. The fact that they may soon be unaffordable for the average wage-earner. That I have no control over the price or quality of the product. Soon, the average wage-earner in this country will not even be able to afford a packet of cigarettes off the shelf. Did you know there was a way to have all the tobacco you ever need, and never have to pay for it? People in the know have wised up and started growing and harvesting their own tobacco. And it is much easier than you might think! Ask yourself this question: Have you ever grown a vegetable garden, or have relatives or friends that have grown their own fruit, vegetable or herbs? Seriously, this is the future for anybody who wants to enjoy their tobacco and ensure they remain safe and healthy and save themselves a fortune in the process. There are a few things you will need to know though. Which seeds produce the best tobacco? How to make a sand mixture to disperse tobacco seeds How much light you should allow for optimum results The easiest way to germinate tobacco seeds? Simple techniques for producing the largest tobacco plants? Hands free maintenance allowing you to set it and forget it? The very best time for harvesting? Drying and curing for maximum flavour and quality? The different types of tobacco available to you How to choose the best seeds for the best plants The truth about soil types and how they affect your plants How to handle seedlings so that you do not damage them How to avoid fungus and mould How to produce the best leaves for cigars What to do with plants that show signs of disease How often to rotate you crop to a new location The different ways to smoke your product.. You will however, need the information in this guide to get off to the best possible start. You could hunt the internet for months without even coming close to the amount of good information and tips in this guide. Some years I had success, while other times my efforts were a bit hit and miss. I really wanted to make sure that all my effort produced some tangible results this year. I especially liked the section for improving the flavour and quality of the tobacco. My fishing buddies and I will be enjoying quality free tobacco on our next trip thanks to your eBook. A must read for growing tobacco at home! I was always concerned about the harmful side effects from the additives in mass produced tobacco products. I do like a cigarette when I am out with friends, and a couple of months ago, a friend got me onto growing my own tobacco. I had no clue about this, but I am great with the veggie garden, so got on the internet and searched for information. I came across your e-book, and immediately wanted to give your process a try. I am currently planning to plant my first couple of tobacco plants, and with what I learnt from your e-book I am sure it will be a great success! K "I have been thinking about growing and harvesting my own tobacco for some time now. I now have a solid action plan to put into practice and feel that I have all the knowledge I need to grow my own tobacco successfully. This guide is really going to save you a LOT of money. Now I know most of my friends that enjoy their tobacco also enjoy their beer, wine and other alcoholic beverages. The answer is "boring! You develop friends, build a family, cultivate a taste for entertainment, but what about alcohol? Well, when it comes to alcohol, you quaff brew made by others. Hey, you should be making your own brew " nice and wholesome and fresh! Flavor Fresh, homemade alcohol has million times more taste and tang as compared to alcohol manufactured by profiteering industrialists who pack it in suffocating bottles and produce it for the masses. You care about yourself and how your alcohol tastes, so your alcohol will surely contain natural ingredients freshly produced by Mother earth and lovingly preserved by your own hands. You well

know that fresh ingredients such as malt, hops, barley and the like can work magic on your tongue and play a bit with your mind â€” so the natural taste is yet another advantage of brewing your own elixir. Yes, making your own brew gives you some tom-tomming privileges and you can brag about making your own brew to all and sundry. Yeah, bottled brew burns a hole in your pocket and blasts your whole taste. Make your own brew â€” tastes better, costs lesser. You still reading this? This really is a no-brainer. I take all the risk, and you simply save on cigarettes! All you have to do to get started is simply hit the Add to Cart button locate below now! To get started, simply click here to order at the limited time discounted price. Warm Regards, Geoff Thrower P. Once you get your hands on this package, ALL of those issues that have been plaguing you will be resolved.

Chapter 9 : How to Grow Tobacco | How To Grow Stuff

University of Florida - "Growing Tobacco in the Home Garden" Cultivation, Harvest, and Curing. We originally started growing and offering tobacco seeds as ornamental annuals.

Plastic wrap optional To get started, you need seeds or transplants. If you live in tobacco country, you might be able to buy some transplants locally; otherwise, you need to seed your own. Tobacco seeds are even smaller than poppy seeds and will get you in less trouble. A pinch of them contains hundreds of potential plants. Because of their minute size, they need to be planted differently than most other seeds. To add an extra layer of fun, they also need light for germination – and when they do germinate, the seedlings are really, really tiny. Chances are, the sun will wipe your plants out before they develop into anything – even if you have a totally perfect little square foot bed – so instead of planting them right in the soil, it makes sense to start them in carefully managed flats. These flats can be made from just about anything. If you live in an arid climate, you might want to cover your flats with some plastic wrap to keep in moisture. Moisten them well and keep your fingers crossed. That said, do your best! In about days, you should see tiny seedlings begin to emerge from the soil. As the seedlings grow, I thin out the flat with a pair of scissors, decapitating unwanted plants rather than pulling them out and disturbing the roots of their neighbors. Give each little plant its own space and their growth rate will be much higher. Once tobacco is transplanted, it grows really fast. Feed it compost, manure or whatever you have available. In a couple of months, your plants will be huge. At this point, you can start picking nice leaves. After a few months, depending on your climate and average temperatures, your tobacco will burst into bloom. Each one of these tobacco seed pods contains enough seed to plant your entire yard. The flowers are pretty and resemble their cousin the petunia. Commercial tobacco farmers remove the buds to force larger leaf growth, but I keep them for seed and because, well, they look nice. For an in-depth video on growing tobacco, check out this one I made a couple of years ago. If you want a smoke, all you need to do is dry and smoke the leaves. I used to park my car in the sun with the windows cracked open and spread leaves all across its dashboard. One afternoon in the sun and they were nice and crispy. The taste of raw tobacco is smoky, grassy, biting – and yet still enjoyable. Curing cigar tobacco is an art, much like wine-making. Like smoking a pipe of beef jerky. After taking the whole leaves from the smoker, I cut them into little bits with a pair of scissors, then let them dry to a good smokeable moisture content. Not bad at all. A decent clove mixture can be made by simply taking dried tobacco, sprinkling it with ground cloves, then rolling that in your wrapping paper of choice. Been there, done that, got a numb mouth. The key, as always, is moderation. Growing your own tobacco without pesticides and not adding weird additional chemicals in the processing phase is a pretty good way to minimize risks. And we KNOW organic is good for you, right? Besides – even if you grow tobacco, no one is going to force you to smoke it. Think of your tobacco patch as insurance for the future. One other thing about tobacco: Boil leaves or cigar butts into a tea, then strain and spray as needed. You also might not want to apply it to your salad greens – too much nicotine, like many things, will make you sick or kill you.