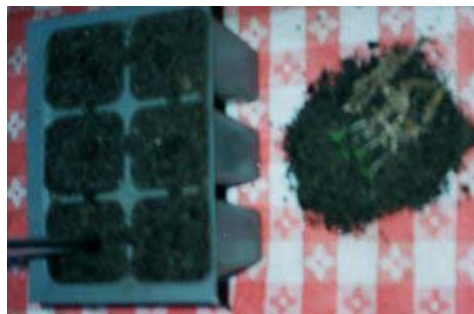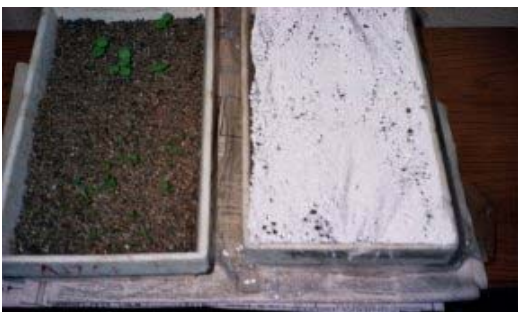# Sensitive Plant

There are not very many good things to say about sensitive plant (Mimosa Pudica). It is not very pretty. It has thorns. You can't eat it. It doesn't even smell good. Except for the nitrogen fixing nodules on the roots it is basically good for nothing.

So why do we call the Sensitive plant child friendly?
     First because it does what you do not expect. When you touch the leaves they fold up. In most cases the little stems actually jerk. It makes children look.
Once a child has seen a sensitive plant he/she will be more curious about other plants.
        Second because the plant can be grown indoors from seed. It may not be the best seed for very young children (for younger children click on activities and then seed) but it is great for 8-10 year olds. The first step is to soak the seed overnight in very warm tap water. Then sew the seed 1/8 inch deep in potting soil. (A dream whip or butter tub with a few holes in the bottom is a good container to plant in.) One eighth inch deep is not very deep. Make a shallow row with a pencil and gently cove. Place the tub in a bowl of water So that it is gently *slowly* watered from the bottom. Then cover the tub with plastic wrap. Remove the wrap 1 or 2 days after the plants have sprouted. Bottom water until the plants are at least 1" tall. Then transplant to Styrofoam cups. In the picture we used a little left over six pack from the year before. Gently separate the small plants. Make a hole in the soil with a pencil and press the soil gently around the delicate roots.

 Sesnsitive plant like all our plants) offers children some great opportunities for spiritual growth. <u>Seeing and touching</u> a plant, especially this one leads to a SENSE OF WONDER. Planting seeds is a special miracle. Only God could pack all the information necessary to grow a plant as complicated as a sensitive plant into something so small. Other seeds we can plant include "God's word, kindness, patience" The nature of God is made clear in the things he has made <u>BOTH visible and invisible.</u> (Romans 1:20)