

Time to build a garden in Minecraft. Craft a hoe out of any material you have available. Use the hoe to prepare the ground for your garden. Once you've used the hoe, pour water within a couple of blocks of your garden. For efficient use of crop watering, place the crops in rows with water in between.

■ GAME MODE

Creative

■ APPROXIMATE TIME TO COMPLETE

1 hour in Minecraft

■ PLATFORMS

PC/Mac, Consoles, PE

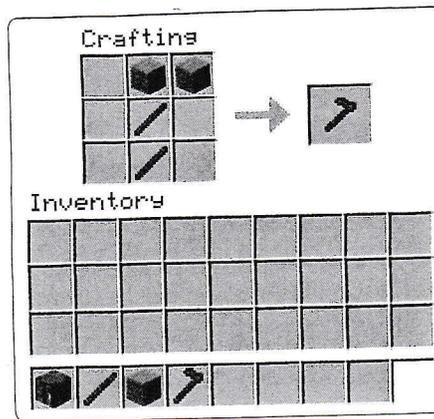


Fig. 1: Craft a hoe using sticks and wood, iron, stone, gold, or diamonds.

1. Potatoes, wheat, carrots, melons, and pumpkins are food staples inside the game. Potatoes can be found at automatically generated NPC (non-player character) villages and, more rarely, by killing a zombie. An easy way to collect wheat seeds is to break tall grass.

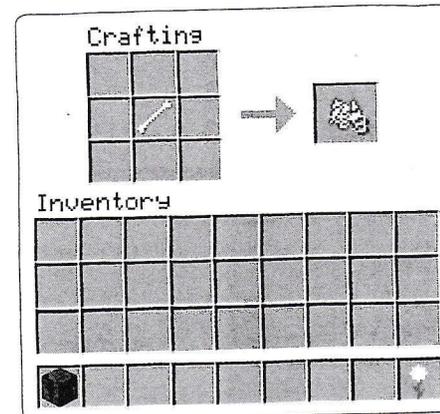


Fig. 2: Craft bone meal out of bones. One bone gives you three bone meals. Collect bones by killing skeletons.

2. Craft a hoe (fig. 1). The material you pick will be subject to wearing down as it is used. Hoes are only for preparing the ground for planting, so you won't need to craft many for a typical size garden. Right-click on the ground to prepare the soil for seeds.

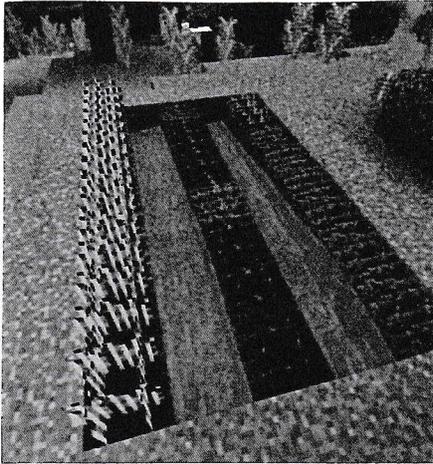


Fig. 3: The left row has been fertilized with bone meal. The other two rows have been left to grow naturally.

3. Bone meal is your secret growth-hacking tool. Bone meal can be crafted from bones (fig. 2). With bone meal, most plants will grow almost instantly. Without bone meal, your crops will take a few day/night cycles to grow to the harvestable stage (fig. 3). Gather bones by killing skeletons.

4. Once the crop is fully grown, left-click on the plant to harvest. Beware: wandering mobs can destroy your garden. Protect your crops with walls of iron bars (fig. 4) or any other block that will keep mobs out.

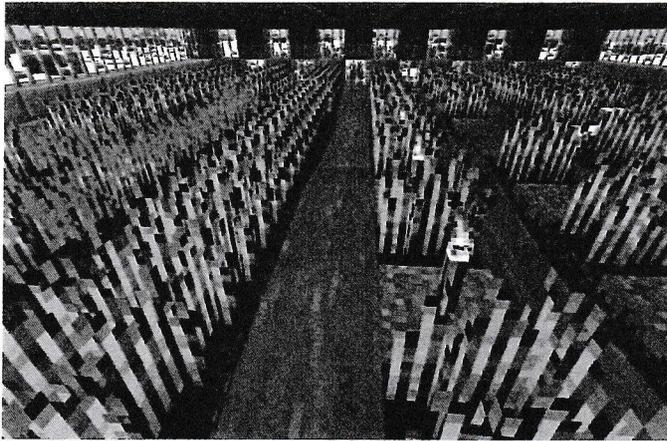
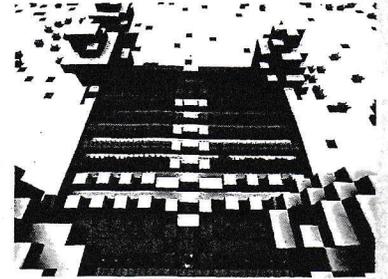


Fig. 4: Mobs can destroy your crops. You can prevent mobs from trampling them by placing iron bars to protect them.



MORE TO EXPLORE

Bone meal can also be used to create dye. Place bone meal in the center of the crafting table and a chunk of lapis lazuli to craft blue dye. Bone meal is an essential ingredient for crafting a white firework star.

Try your hand at automatic farming. You can use a piston system that drops water on the crops to automatically harvest all the plants.

The garden shown above was designed to promote rapid growth and easy access for harvesting. Because snow can hurt crops and freeze water, torches were placed nearby to keep them warm.