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## Get Growing: Sowing seeds of love

Thursday, November 10, 2005

**Suzanne Hively**  
Plain Dealer Columnist



SUZANNE HIVELY

### PRODUCT

Sowing seeds of love

The message plant, actually a sword bean, *Canavalia gladiata*, allows children and adults to share a message with a friend or loved one.

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The plant is sold as a potted seed that takes seven to 10 days to germinate. After the leaves appear, one of them will reveal a message, "I love you."

The message is lasered on the bean, and as it splits during germination the imprint appears on a leaf.

Sword bean is a low-maintenance tropical plant that tolerates average indoor sunlight.

Staking is recommended, because it is a vine.

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## READING

Houseplant know-how


"The Complete Houseplant Survival Manual" (Storey Publishing, 365 pp., \$24.95 paper) was written as "Essential Know-how for Keeping (Not Killing!) More Than 160 Indoor Plants."

Author Barbara Pleasant offers tips on light, temperature, fertilizing, water, soil type, repotting, longevity, propagation and display tips. Left-hand pages offer plant descriptions and cultural information. Right-hand pages have large photographs and list causes and remedies for problems.

Part One focuses on blooming plants, Part Two on foliage plants and Part Three on houseplant care.

- Suzanne Hively

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