Pollin Tube Growth

Read these instructions carefully before you start.

1. Bend over the top of a large straw. Squeeze the middle and draw up a few drops of 1.2M sucrose solution.

2. Squeeze two drops of sucrose into a clear Fuji film can lid.

3. Repeat with a new piece of straw and draw up a few drops of mineral solution.

4. Squeeze two drops of mineral salt solution into the same can lid.

5. Mix the two solutions well. Stick the Fuji lid to a microscope slide with a bit of blutack.

6. Put a small drop of the mixture onto the centre of a coverslip.

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7. Remove a ripe stamen from a young flower.

8. Gently dab the anther onto the drop. Make sure that there is plenty of pollen on the drop.

9. Invert the coverslip and put it on the Fuji can lid which is stuck on the microscope slide. Observe the pollen tubes under a low power microscope.