



## **HOW TO GROW A PINEAPPLE AT HOME**

Take something you usually throw away and turn it into a beautiful touch of the tropics for your home. It's easy. And it's fun.

### **STEP ONE:**

- Start right now by buying a fresh Del Monte Gold® Pineapple.

### **TRIM AND STRIP:**

- Cut or twist the top off your pineapple.
- Trim off any adhering fruit.
- Then with a sharp knife, cut the bottom of the crown just until you see root buds.
- Strip off three or four of the lower leaves.

### **REST:**

- Now place the crown upside down in a dry, shaded place for about a week. This hardens the cut end and prevents rot.

### **PLANT:**

- Start your pineapple in an 8-inch red clay pot (when it outgrows this, transplant your pineapple to its final home, a 12-inch clay pot).
- Use a good garden soil and mix in up to 30 percent well-composted organic matter.
- Also, don't let your pineapple get "wet feet." Provide proper drainage by placing a curved piece of broken pot over the hole in the bottom of the pot. Over this, add 1/2 to 1-inch of coarse gravel. Then add your soil. Tamp the soil firmly around the base of the crown. Avoid getting soil into the central leaves of the crown.

### **WATER:**

- Pineapples require watering once a week. Water the soil only.



### **CARE AND FEEDING:**

- Fertilize your pineapple when you plant it, and every two or three months afterwards with a good household plant food.
- Also, pineapples hate the cold. So during the winter months, keep your plant indoors. Place it near a window for maximum sunlight. And at night, move it away from the window to prevent freezing.

### **PICK YOUR PINEAPPLE:**

- When your plant is about 16 months old, a bright red cone will emerge from the center of the leaves.
- Later, light blue flowers will open on the cone over a period of about two weeks.
- When the petals of the last flower have dried, you'll start to see the fruit developing.
- Pick your pineapple when the shell turns a rich gold.

### **WHILE YOU WAIT:**

- Your favorite grocery store has plenty of fresh Del Monte Gold<sup>®</sup> Pineapples every day of the year, so you can enjoy its fresh taste while you watch your own pineapple grow.