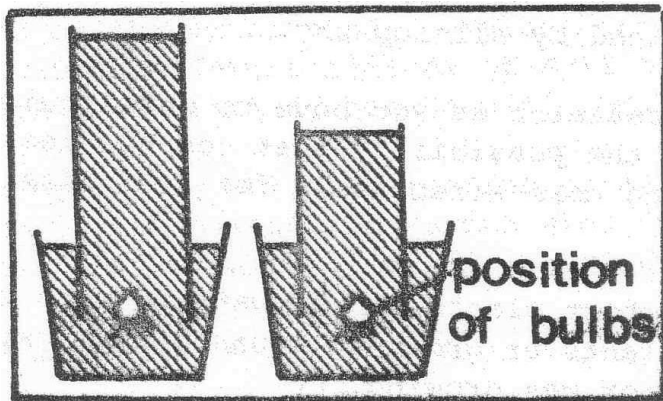


PROBLEM

Many persistent weeds owe their nasty reputation to their ability to regenerate from either seeds or from vegetative structures and to their ability to grow up from considerable depths. You might investigate for example the depth from which bulbs of *Oxalis* (sour sob) or runners of kikuya, etc. will emerge. Alternatively, you might investigate how small a piece of couch, veldt or crab grass is sufficient to establish a new plant.

INFORMATION

1. A neat way of investigating emergence from different depths is to use different lengths of plastic drain pipe placed upright in plant pots of somewhat wider diameter as in the diagram.



2. Although weeds are very successful in your garden, for experimental purposes it is better to grow them in pots or seed trays so you can control the experimental conditions more easily.

DESIGN OF EXPERIMENT

1. How are you going to standardize the material you start with – bulb weight, size, number of nodes on a runner, its length? Are you going to leave existing roots and leaves on or cut them off etc.? If taking small bits off a runner it may be important to note the physiological age i.e. how far back from the apex a particular piece is taken.
2. How will you avoid competition from weeds in the soil you use for your experiments!!
3. How will you talk your parents or school gardener into letting you grow weeds and convince them you will not let any out from your experiment and will destroy them when you finish?

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