



# STEPPING STONES



**Summary:** Create stepping stones for the garden! Students have an opportunity to be creative by making and decorating their own stepping stones for the garden.

**Length:** 30-45 minutes, plus follow-up the next day/throughout the week (however long it takes the concrete to dry completely)

**Ages:** Pre-K - Adult

## Materials needed:

- Concrete mixture
- Water
- Bucket(s) or wheelbarrow (for mixing and liquids)
- Recommended: safety mask and glasses, gloves (for powdery concrete)
- Shovel, trowel, or other tool to mix concrete
- Containers for stepping stone molds (such as pie tins, take-out containers, bottom of a circular bucket, etc.)
- Saran wrap, cooking spray
- Objects for mosaic design (small tiles, glass balls, marbles, knick knacks, rocks, etc.)
- Rags



## Optional/additional materials:

- Bowls, basket, or container to put little decorative items in
- Bonder for concrete mixture (see what instructions on concrete mix say)
- Sharp sand – this can be used in addition to the cement mixture to give it a more malleable and finer texture (e.g. use 1 ½ cups cement, 6 ½ cups sand, 1 cup of water)
- There are kits you can purchase from craft stores that have a very fine cement mixture and letters/objects to decorate with

## Procedure:

1. Set-up concrete mixing station and an area for the concrete molds and objects to decorate the stepping stones with.
2. Follow directions on the bag of concrete for how to mix it. Some mixes require 5 parts concrete to 1 part water, but it depends, so follow the instructions, add water slowly, and use a shovel or trowel to mix until it has a mud-like consistency. Sand can also be added for a finer texture. Use flexibility when adding the parts to get to the ideal texture.
3. Spray concrete mold with a bit of cooking spray on all sides. Saran wrap could also be used to line the mold.

4. Gently pour or scoop (with a trowel) the concrete mix into a mold. Use a trowel or other tool to make sure the top is flattened. For best results, tap the top and sides with a trowel several times to get all air bubbles out and help the mixture to settle.
5. Decorate the concrete mold with any objects desired! Be sure to push objects firmly down into the concrete so they will not fall out.
6. Set the concrete molds in a dry and safe place to harden. Drying time may vary, but check the information on the concrete mix for tips.
7. Once the concrete mold is completely dry, gently push the solid concrete out of the mold. The cooking spray or saran wrap should allow the solid concrete to come out easily, but if it is difficult, the mold may need to be cut in order to get the solid concrete out.
8. Place stepping stones in the garden and enjoy!



Questions? More info? Please visit us at [www.communityfoodinitiatives.org](http://www.communityfoodinitiatives.org)

*This material is based upon work that is supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under agreement number 2022-38640-37486 through the North Central Region SARE program under project number YENC24-215. USDA is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and should not be construed to represent any official USDA or U.S. Government determination or policy.*