

Growing Easter Grass this Lent

A Finnish Lenten Discipline



Lego Minifigure Dude says:

*“Green grass is growing right out of the dirt!
Totally rad!”*

Jesus says:

“Unless a seed falls into the earth and dies, it can only be a single seed. But if it falls into the soil, it grows a lot and bears much fruit.” Jesus said this to describe his own death and resurrection, and that of his followers. John 12:24

Lego Minifigure Dude says:

“Whoa! This grass is like Jesus rising from the dead! Cool, man. That’s like totally awesome.”

Growing Easter Grass this Lent

This Lent we are going to grow grass for Easter! Do you have plastic grass in your Easter basket? Finnish Christians grow *real* grass during Lent for Easter. Finnish Easter grass is called *rairuoho*. If you Google the word and search for images you will see lots wonderful ideas!

GETTING STARTED

In your kit you will find a dish, soil, grass seeds and a spray mister.

1. Find a plate to set your dish on.
2. Place the soil in the dish. Reserve 1 TBSP of soil to cover the seeds.
3. Add the grass seeds to the top of the soil. Be generous. We want thick grass.
4. No need to bury the grass seeds, though you can lightly spread the reserve soil over top.
5. Use the spray mister to moisten the soil. Don’t drown the seeds.
6. Place the pot in a sunny spot, but not out of sight. You want to see it every day.



SING, SPRAY, and PRAY every day!

Each day in Lent you can sing, spray, and pray.

1. **SING** or listen to *Now the Green Blade Rises* on YouTube or iTunes or wherever you get your music. Maybe some days you'll listen to and sing just one verse. Maybe on other days you'll listen to and sing the entire song.

Lyrics, music, and links to Now the Green Blade Rises can be found on pages 6-7 of this booklet



2. **SPRAY** your soil with the spray mister while you are listening and singing. It will take about 10 days for the grass seed to sprout. *Be sure to keep the soil moist throughout the season! The seeds need both water and sun.*
3. **PRAY** a simple *thank you prayer* to God for water, soil, growth, new life, for each other, and for whatever else might be on your mind or heart that day. As you pray, you might spray each other with water or use a small bowl of water to remember your baptism.

You can also use some or all of the FAITH5 a few times during each week to share stories of faith and pray together. The FAITH5 can be found on the New Joy website: newjoy.org/FAITH5

ONCE THE SEEDS SPROUT, the growth will be *fascinating* to watch. Be sure to keep the soil moist by spraying it with water!

Every week or every few days you can place a tiny toy in the soil or add a decoration to your pot. Add a little pebble. Or a heart taped to a toothpick. Add a tiny flower or a feather. Or make a cross. Add a Lego figure or a Poly Pocket doll. Be creative!



RAIRUOHO ("RYEGRASS")

(Parents: please take a picture and post it to the New Joy Partners Facebook Group or on New Joy's Instagram page.)

After the grass grows your toys and decorations can hide or they can peak out from the grass. You can "mow" the grass with scissors if it gets a bit much!

Now, when we get to the Great Three Days of our Lord's Passion – Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday – and to Easter Sunday, it will be time to add some special objects to your grass!

- On **Maundy Thursday, April 1st**, make a **CROSS** – perhaps with craft sticks or toothpicks – and put it in your Lenten grass.
- On **Good Friday, April 2nd**, find a small **STONE** or rock and place it in your Lenten grass.
- On **Holy Saturday, April 3rd**, make a **HEART** and put it in your Lenten grass.
- On **Easter Sunday, April 4th**, read Mark 16:1-8. Take the **CROSS AND STONE** away!! Leave the **HEART**! Say a prayer together as a family. Thank Jesus for love that has come again just like the green grass that has sprung up!

Now the Green Blade Rises

Some versions use the original, more archaic older English; others use a more contemporary wording. Both sets of lyrics are available in this booklet. The following are just a few suggestions.

YouTube:

search: *Laura Wright - Now The Green Blade Rises*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-5Bi2jM40E>

search: *Steve Winwood "Now the Green Blade Riseth" (2020)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vpU01KQIUJM>

Yes, Steve Winwood of 80s rock fame!

search: *Now the Green Blade Riseth*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVduV0ustWw>

Traditional/older lyrics:

Now the Green Blade Riseth

1 Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

2 In the grave they laid Him, Love who had been slain,
Thinking that He never would awake again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

3 Forth He came at Easter, like the risen grain,
Jesus who for three days in the grave had lain;
Quick from the dead the risen One is seen:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

4 When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
Jesus' touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

Contemporary lyrics, with music:

Now the Green Blade Rises



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

Text from *Oxford Book of Carols*, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Find other versions of Now the Green Blade Rises on YouTube, Google Play, iTunes, or wherever you get your music!