

Grow your own pineapple—Aloha!

Remember the old TV show “Hawaii Five-O”?

In this famous police show, Steve McGarrett, Dano and other officers chased after evil criminals all over the beautiful tropical islands. There were lots of hula dancers, grass skirts, and ocean waves—and then every show ended with McGarrett catching the crook and telling his detective: “Book him, Dano”. Now that was a great show!

Although it’s wintry outside, you can bring a bit of Hawaii into your home by growing your own pineapple. Go to the grocery store and select a fruit that is freshly picked and still green. If the leaves pull off easily from the fruit, the pineapple may be too ripe.

After you get home from the grocery store, put on your Hawaiian shirt and flip-flops to get you in the mood (wearing a grass skirt is optional). Slice off the top half inch of the fruit, leaving the foliage intact. Clean out the pulp from the flower stump so only the outer rind is left (see photo). Set




the top near a sunny windowsill for a couple days to let the wound dry.

Plant the pineapple top so that one inch of the lower foliage is buried. Keep the soil moderately moist and fertilize monthly.

Once the plant gets 18 inches tall it’s capable of forming a fruit. Put the plant inside a clear bag. Insert a couple of ripe apples into

the bag for a few weeks. The apples will give off ethylene, which will get the pineapple plant “in the mood” to have a baby.

Set the plant near a sunny window and several months later you will notice a flower spike, which will grow into a small pineapple. Be proud of your accomplishment and taste the goodness of the islands! Aloha! 

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Published January 2010
Revised January 2012

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