



How to Grow "samani" for Novruz

by Rachel and Lucas Shryock
(both 7)

Getting Started

Here's what you need:

- Wheat Berries (or green lentils)
- A pretty plate
- Paper towels or paper napkins
- Watering Can or large glass
- Water
- Bright red ribbon



ALL PHOTOS: JIM SHRYOCK

Day 1

If you want to celebrate spring in Azerbaijan, this is what to do. Make "samani".

Find a pretty plate. Cover it with one, thick, single layer of seeds. Wheat or lentils both grow very well. But don't mix them. Choose one or the other.



Water the seeds and cover them with a wet paper towel.

Place the plate in a place where the seeds will get sunlight—a place where it is warm and bright.

Then wait for the "samani" to start growing.





Day 2
Check your seeds three or four times a day to make sure that the paper towel is always damp. This is like homework. You always have to remember to do it. Don't let the seeds get dry.

Day 4
The seeds are already starting to grow. When the green sprouts are about one fourth of an inch high or as long as your fingernail, take off the paper towel so that the wheat can grow even taller. Make sure the seeds have plenty of sun and water. Wait some more.

Day 5
The "*samani*" is already one inch tall. It is growing fast now. Check for water and sun. Don't let your cats get too close. They might want to eat the wheat grass!

Day 6
Keep checking the seeds to make sure they have water and sun. Watch and keep waiting.

Day 7
The wheat grass is four inches tall. Awesome! It's growing so fast right in front of our eyes!



"Samani" for sale at one of the bazaars in Baku at Novruz.

ELMAN GUREANOV



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The Samani is ready! Kathleen Shryock with her children, Lucas and Rachel.

Day 10

The wheat grass is now at least six inches tall. It's ready to decorate. Now tie a bright-colored ribbon around your "samani". We picked red for Azerbaijan. They use red, too. Now place the "samani" in the middle of your table to celebrate the coming of Spring!

Happy First Day of Spring!