

THE BASIC STEPS TO SEED STARTING



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MAKE A GARDEN PLAN

Pick out your plants and make a plan based on suggested planting dates, unique needs, and days to maturity found on the seed packet or online.

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PRE-WET PEAT MIX

Pre-wet your peat mix to prevent drying out and seed disturbance. Mix should be uniformly damp, so it holds together when you squeeze it in your hand, with few drops of water released.

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TRANSPLANT

After the number of weeks listed on the seed packet, transplant your seedlings to your garden! Ensure that the base of the plant is level with the soil surface. Gently water immediately after planting.

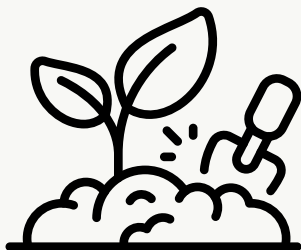
PREPARE POTS

A good pot or tray allows for drainage. Some might require mesh material cut to the shape of your pots in the bottom to avoid losing your peat mix.



PLANT SEEDS

Plant 3-4 seeds per pot, thinning later as needed. Check the seed packet for depth and special instructions (General Rule: depth is 2-3 times the seed's diameter). See back of page for seedling care information.



SEEDLING CARE

LIGHT

Germination often requires a 12-hour light cycle. This can be given to the seeds either by placing them by a window, or using grow-lights.

WATER

Keep the peat mix wet until the first leaves emerge. Afterwards, water at least once a day. Bottom-water by placing the bottom inch of pots in a container of water, or water with a spray bottle set to a fine mist to avoid scattering seeds or disturbing young plants.

TEMPERATURE

Some plant species require specific temperature ranges to germinate (Refer to the seed packet or online information). One way to address this is by placing heat mats underneath your pots.

AIR FLOW

Make sure the seedlings have a source of air flow to prevent pests and disease by placing them near a vent or fan. Gentle air flow can also help the plants develop strong roots.

THINNING

If all the seeds you planted in one pot germinate, thin them out with a pair of tweezers to avoid competition. If you want, you can transplant the seedlings you removed to different pots. As you do so, make sure the root is pointed straight down (avoid J-shaped roots).

FERTILIZER

Fertilize seedlings as soon as they develop their first two true leaves (after the cotyledons). Start off with a small dose, then gradually increase each following time. Fertilize once a week until transplantation. If you are planting in the SLCC Student Gardens, make sure to use approved fertilizers.

HARDENING OFF

Place the seedlings outside for 3-7 days to allow the plant to acclimate to outdoor conditions.

Want to learn more about SLCC Student Gardens or Rent a Plot?

Scan here for additional resources:

Or reach out to the Coordinator for Student Gardens at rhunsa20@slcc.edu!

