

# How to Germinate Seeds

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# Preparation

Place seeds in warm water for 30 minutes  
(optional)

Wet your soil until moist

# Planting

Plant 1-3 seeds per container, depending the container size.

Sowing depth is typically double the size of the seed. A tweezer works good with small seeds.

Cover with soil & gently firm, this may depend on the type of seed

Spray top lightly to moisten.

# Temperature

Maintain a soil temp. of 70-80 degrees, but not higher than 90 and about 10 degrees cooler after germination.

Add heat as needed w/a heating mat & cover w/plastic/dome to keep soil moist.

Spray w/ water as needed. Note: Heating mats should be monitored closely, they can get too hot.

# Lighting

Plants need light to grow, but most need dark to germinate.

As soon as the seeds have sprouted, remove cover & give plants at least 8 hours of light in a southern window.

Add a grow light if needed and/or transfer outside on warm days & bring inside at night.

If you keep them in a window rotate to ensure full exposure

# After Seeds Sprout

Once the seeds sprout, let them grow a few days, then thin out the weakest plants leaving one strong plant per cell. I use a scissor instead of pulling so you do not disturb the remaining plant.

Transplant seedlings to a larger pot when you have 2 sets of leaves. This does not include the first pair of leaves that emerge from the seed called the cotyledon, they are not true leaves. Plant should be about 3" tall and have a large healthy root ball.

# Fertilizing

The seed has enough nutrients to get the plant started, but once you have true leaves you may need to feed with diluted fertilizer like miracle grow.

If your germinating soil contains fertilizer the plant should be fine, but monitor.