

How to sow seed

In spring, once frosts are behind us, many seeds can be 'direct sown' straight into the garden. However, sowing into trays first allows germinating seeds to be moved out of harms way should an inclement weather event occur!

Sowing Little Seeds

1. Fill seed trays with seed raising mix and compact mix lightly.
2. Water mix and leave to drain for about ten minutes.
3. Using a spoon, sprinkle seeds evenly over the top of the mix.
4. Cover seeds with a thin layer of mix and spray with water to just moisten the soil.
5. Place trays in a warm, shaded area (or greenhouse or under a cloche) and cover with newspaper and plastic wrap, or a sheet of glass.
6. Check daily for germination and spray with water if required, but don't over water.
7. Remove paper and plastic once seeds germinate, gradually moving trays into a sunny position as seedlings mature.
8. Transplant seedlings into small pots for growing on, or straight into the garden after all risk of frost has passed.

Sowing Big Seeds

Sow direct in warm areas or into individual pots in cold areas, as follows:

1. Fill pots with seed raising mix and compact lightly (or use Jiffy Pro peat pots).
2. Water mix and leave to drain, as above.
3. Sow seed at a depth, twice the diameter of the seed.
4. Follow steps 5 – 8 above.

Sowing Seeds Direct

1. Prepare soil by digging in plenty of compost and forking through general fertiliser.
2. Water well and allow the soil to drain.
3. Sprinkle small seeds over the soil and cover with a fine layer of soil (or potting mix) OR plant large seeds (beans etc) at correct spacings and depth.
4. Thin out and transplant seedlings once they germinate.



And remember...

- protect your seedlings from slugs and snails with slug bait.
- protect seedlings in pots and trays from damping off by not over-watering.
- protect young vege seedlings (especially lettuce) from birds!
- liquid feed seedlings with seaweed to boost growth and improve their immunity.