



**intelligro**  
gardening without guesswork

## **Our How To Guide On Raising Seeds**

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There's nothing more rewarding than growing your own greenery from a tiny seed.

Here's our guide on how to raise seeds and give them a healthiest start.

# Getting started

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Here's some tips for getting those little seeds sprouting



## Sow Seeds in Trays

This will protect your seeds from weather and pest as well as offer optimal drainage to avoid rotting off. Most seeds should be sown in trays as new shoots are tender and small and can find it difficult to push through the soil's crust. Don't forget to label your trays.



## Quality of your seeds

Keep your seeds sealed until you're ready to use them. Once the sachet is opened, the seed is exposed to light, moisture and heat, causing it to deteriorate. An opened packet of seed should be used within six months.



## Use Seed Raising Mix

Use a seed raising mix rather than a garden soil as these mixes are especially formulated to a fine texture to give the best chance of germination. For the best results use **Intelligro Seed Raising Mix**.

# Seeds need 3 main conditions to germinate; heat, air and moisture

Raising your seeds in trays means you can easily control these conditions



# Sowing Your Seeds

## Fill

Fill the tray with seed raising mix to 10mm below the top of the container. Level off the soil and firm down with your hand.



## Scatter seeds

Scatter evenly over the surface then cover lightly with seed raising mix. Once covered, gently firm down. Follow the packet instructions for planting depth as too deep can lead to the seed dying.



## Lightly water

Water from the top using a mister. This will give you a finer spray and prevent soaking the seed. Keep seedlings well watered as they will dry out very quickly in the seed tray.



## Cover

Cover the tray with glass, plastic or a sheet of paper to keep the seeds moist and warm during germination. Most seeds do not require light to germinate, but all require light once germinated.



## Move

After the seed germinates, uncover and move the tray to a warm, sunny, sheltered position in winter, or shady position in summer.

## Hardening Up

If seedlings have been grown indoors they will be “soft” and therefore need to be “hardened off” or getting used to outdoors before planting into the garden.

Place seedlings outside during the day and bring them in at night for up to two weeks, then the seedlings will be ready to plant in the garden. Keep seedlings well watered during this process and water them well before planting into the garden.

## Pricking Out

Shortly after germination two juvenile leaves appear. Wait until the seedling produces two true leaves – which look very different to the first two juvenile leaves – before putting into another container or straight into the garden.

Using a pencil, gently dig beneath the seedling and lift it carefully by the leaves. Tease the seedlings apart. Make a hole in the soil big enough for the seedling, place seedling and firm soil around it. Water in well.

# Sowing Directly into your garden

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Seeds can be sown directly into the garden. Here's how;

- ✔ Prepare the soil by digging in generous quantities of peat or compost. Level and smooth the soil surface.
- ✔ Follow the instructions on the packet or as a general rule plant the seed in rows approx 5cm deep
- ✔ Firm the soil around the seed with your hand. For best results always sow seeds into damp soil.
- ✔ When seedlings appear, thin to the desired spacing. Beware of slugs and snails at this stage as they love these tender young plants.

## Things to keep an eye on

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### Damping off

This is caused by soil borne fungus. Seedlings collapse due to poor drainage, lack of ventilation and over watering.

### Seeds fail to germinate

Because they are planted too deep. Follow seed packet recommendations.

### Over watering

The **Intelligro Seed Raising Mix** should be damp and not wet.

