

Sowing seeds in trays

When to sow seeds

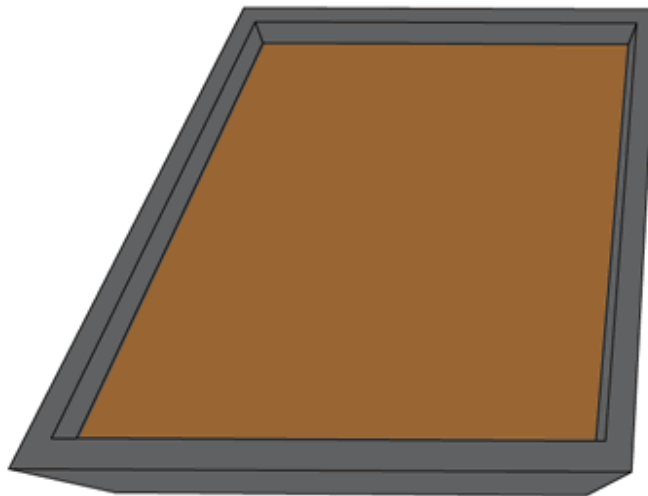
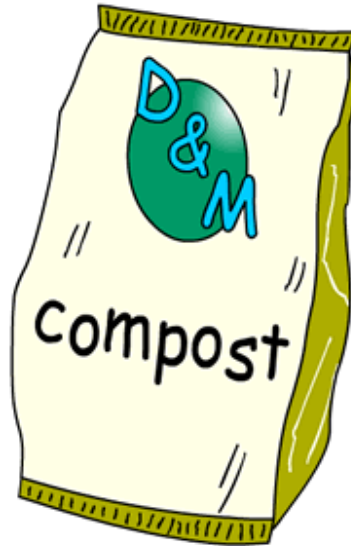
Read the instructions on the packet of seed, as the time to sow seeds will vary depending on the type of plant. Seeds are generally sown in spring or early summer.

Tools Required

- Compost
- Seed tray
- Levelling board
- Seeds
- Sieve
- Plant labels and pen
- Watering can with a fine rose



1. Rub the compost between your fingers to break down any large lumps of compost into fine crumbs. Overfill a clean seed tray with the compost.



2. Select a packet of seeds to sow. The size of the seed will decide how the seeds are sown. Select one of the following methods of sowing:

a. Large seeds can be placed individually on the surface of the compost, before being covered with compost.

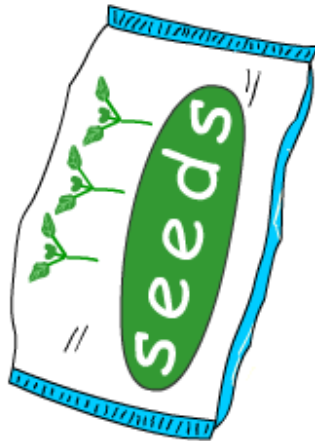
b. Medium size seeds can be carefully shaken from the seed packet onto the compost

Or alternatively:

Seeds can be placed into the palm of the hand and sprinkled onto the compost.

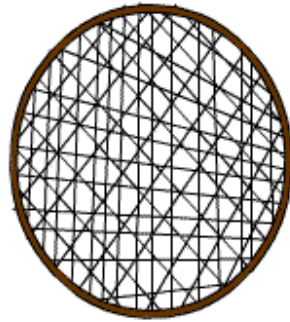
c. Small seeds can be mixed with dry sand to allow for easier sowing and then evenly as possible sprinkled over the compost.

Read the instructions on the seed packet, as usually very small seeds do not need to be covered with compost.

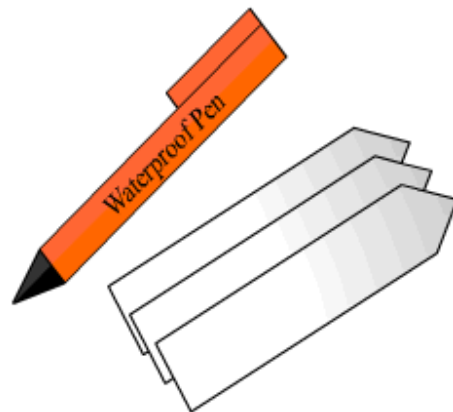


3. With each method, sow the seeds as evenly as possible by first scattering the seeds lengthways and then long ways in the tray.

4. For seeds that need to be covered with compost:
Put compost into the sieve and sprinkle it over the seed tray – covering the seeds with a thin layer of compost.



5. Label the sown seeds with the name of the plant and date.



6. Water the seed tray with a watering can that has a fine rose attached.



Aftercare

- Place the tray on a windowsill, in a propagator or in a greenhouse – in a well-lit position away from direct sun
- Water the tray with a watering can with a fine rose if the compost starts to dry out.