

Ownership

(Mine, mine, mine ... these are YOUR seeds)

Preparing a Container: Start by using potting mix or fertilized garden soil. Loosen and dampen the soil (it should be wet but not dripping). Fill your seed-starting containers 2/3 and gently firm the top with your hand.

Relationship

(Investment & care is key)

Now plant the seed: Place one or two seeds per container on the prepared soil. Cover the seeds with a thin layer of dampened soil mix (if you plant it too deep it might not germinate).

Consistency

(Consistency trumps intensity - Daily commitment & dedicated time)

Water regularly: Sprinkle some water on top of the newly planted seeds so that the top layer of soil won't dry out. This also helps ensure good contact between the seed and the soil. Check the soil daily and be sure to keep the soil moist, but be careful not to drown the seed in water.

Teaching / Training

(Example is caught, not taught - People do what they see)

Greenhouse effect: Move your container to a warm, draft-free spot and check it daily. Seeds germinate best in temperatures between 18-21°C. You could cover the container loosely with some type of plastic, but be sure to allow good air circulation to avoid mold from forming. Remove the plastic as soon as you see a seedling emerging and move the plant into indirect light. Be sure to keep the soil moist, but not wet.

Accountability

(Where real change takes place - Ask the uncomfortable next question)

Light and fertilizing: Your seedlings will need between 12 to 18 hours of light each day. When your baby plants have two sets of true leaves (the first leaves are called cotyledons or seed leaves), start fertilizing once a week with half-strength liquid plant starter or fish emulsion fertilizer.

Growth

(No growth simply means no Jesus in your life)

Transplant and hardening: Transplant seedlings into their final pot once they have their second set of leaves. Always handle young plants by the leaves, as the roots and stems are very tender. When your young plants are stronger you can 'harden off' the plants for outdoor survival. Toughen them up by exposing them to half a day outdoors at first and gradually leave them out longer to get them used to the outdoor environment.

