



STARTING SEEDS IN PEAT PELLETS

PLAN AHEAD:

Plant your seeds in peat pellets indoors two weeks before you are planning to plant them outside.



PURPOSE:

Starting seeds indoors in peat pellets allows the seeds to germinate in ideal conditions, increasing the germination rate. It is also a great way to observe the transformation of seed to plant and gives you an up close look at the parts of a plant.



MATERIALS:

- Peat Pellets
- Baking Tin or Tray
- Water
- Plastic Wrap
- Seeds:
 - Peas (Spring)
 - Cucumbers (Summer)
 - Pumpkins (Summer)
 - Sunflowers (Summer)
 - Zinnias (Summer)



PROCEDURE:

1. Fill tray with one inch of lukewarm water.
2. Drop peat pellets into the water and watch them expand as they soak up the water.
3. Once peat pellets have expanded to full size, drain the excess water out of the bottom of the tray.
4. Gently poke 1-2 seeds in the top of each peat pellet. Press down lightly to make sure that seeds are covered with soil.
5. Pour a small amount of water over the peat pellet.
6. Cover tray with plastic wrap or plastic cover.
7. When peat pellets begin to look dry, pour water into bottom of tray. Once the peat pellets have absorbed the water, drain the excess water out of the tray.
8. Once seeds have germinated take the plastic wrap off of the top of the tray and place in a sunny window.
9. If multiple seeds have germinated in the peat pellets, thin the plants down to one plant per peat pellet.
10. If the weather is 50 degrees or above, take the tray of peat pellets outside in order to decrease the chance of the plants stretching out in the sun.
11. Plant the peat pellets and their seedlings directly in the raised bed in your garden and water seedlings after planting.

