

**Purpose:**

Starting seeds indoors in peat pellets allows the seeds to germinate in ideal conditions, increasing the germination rate. It also gives you a “jump” on the season by allowing you to start seeds 2 weeks before you are able to plant them

**Materials:**

- Peat Pellets
- Tray or aluminum baking tin
- Watering can
- Seeds of choice (peas, gourds, cucumbers, pumpkins, vining flowers, sunflowers, or zinnias)
- Plastic wrap or plastic cover.

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Starting Seeds in Peat Pellets

Plant your seeds in peat pellets indoors two weeks before you are planning to plant them outside. This method works well for vining crops and flowers.

Tomatoes, peppers and other long-growing plants, that are typically not direct seeded into your garden, can also be started in peat pellets. However, these plants should be started earlier and grown in a grow light unit so that they reach the ideal transplant size by your recommended outdoor planting date.

Procedure:

- Fill a tray with one inch of lukewarm water.
- Drop peat pellets into the water and watch them expand as they soak up the water. Add more water, if needed.
- Once peat pellets have expanded to full size, drain the excess water out of the bottom of the tray.
- One end of the peat pellet should have a hole in it. Pull back netting to expand hole size, if needed.
- Gently poke 1-2 seeds in the top of each peat pellet. Press down lightly to make sure that seeds are covered with soil.
- Pour a small amount of water over the peat pellet.
- Cover tray with plastic wrap or plastic cover.
- When peat pellets begin to look dry, pull back plastic cover and water gently. Drain the excess water out of the tray.
- Keep a close eye on your plants for any sign of germination; this typically takes 2-3 days. Once you see any sign of something growing, take the plastic wrap off of the top of the tray and place in a sunny window. You can also put them in a grow light unit, if available.
- If multiple seeds have germinated in the peat pellets, thin the plants down to one plant per peat pellet.
- 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.
- Plant the peat pellets and their seedlings directly in the raised bed in your garden and water seedlings after planting.