

Seeds not growing?

Starting seeds off indoors will help get your plants off to the best start and protect young seedlings from the weather.

Here are a few reasons why your seeds may not be growing as they should.

Planting depths.

Very often seeds are planted too deep, which means they cannot germinate.

Always follow the directions on the packet, which will give directions on sowing times, depths, locations, spacing and flowering periods.

Soil is too cold.

Seeds can be very picky when it comes to temperature. If unsure, start the seeds off indoors. The seedlings can be planted out when you are more confident in the temperatures.

Preparation

Preparing a seedbed properly can have a major impact on your seeds growing into strong plants. Always clear the area you are planting and get rid of as many weeds as possible.

To give your beds an extra boost, add some chicken fertiliser or manure in the autumn. This will break down over the winter and leave you with healthy beds ready for planting after the last frost.

Watering

Extremes of watering can cause problems during germination and sometimes even wash seeds away. After sowing, always press the soil firmly so that the seed makes contact with the soil before watering. If seeds are very small, we advise to water the area before sowing and then again firm down the area after sowing.

Wild Visitors

Occasionally you may find that your wilder neighbours such as birds and squirrels have found your newly sown seeds and had themselves a seed picnic. To protect your seeds and seedlings from wildlife, try covering them with netting or chicken wire.

Seedlings not doing as well as you wanted?

Hardening Off

Never transplant seedlings outdoors until they have got used to the weather. You can do this by hardening them off – putting the seedlings outdoors during the day and bringing them back in at night. You should do this for at least two weeks so that the seedlings are not shocked when finally transplanted.

Frost

Frost is one of the main reasons that seeds and seedlings do not germinate and die. Never put seeds or seedlings out until after the last frost. If you are unsure, keep them inside for another week, it won't harm the seedlings and will allow them to become stronger before being exposed to the elements.

Slugs & Snails

Remember to protect all young seedlings from slugs and snails. There are lots of products on the market to deter these hungry little pests but we recommend attracting natural predators such as worms, birds and hedgehogs into the garden. If this isn't a possibility you can try sprinkling crushed eggshells around your plants. Crushed shells also work really well.

