



Tips for Successful Seed Sowing:

- Always use fresh compost
- Maintain a planting depth of about 2 times the size of the seed
- Always label the seeds, crucial for seed saving. I use UV and water resistant pens and write on the inside of drinks cartons which I cut to size.
- Don't let the seedlings dry out
- Don't keep them wet - they hate soggy bottoms apart from watercress and rice!
- Seedlings cope best when watered from the bottom rather than on the soil surface.
- Watch out for Damping off - A nasty fungal problem that causes you precious seedlings to keel over, worry no more cinnamon is your friend sprinkle after sowing. Watering with camomile tea can also be used to ward off damping off.
- Watch out for predators – wireworm, cutworm, snails and slugs can get anywhere! Corn meal works well, the cut worm eat it and it swells up in them and they die. I'm also experimenting with Diatomaceous earth.
- Improvise - use whatever you have that will give the seeds the conditions they need to germinate.
- Know your seeds and what conditions they need to grow in, tomatoes, aubergines and chillies like heat, lettuce likes cold.
- Heat loving seedlings love to be watered with warm water, yes, they told me! Imagine a newborn being bathed in cold water, tears!