



SECRETS TO SUCCESSFUL SEED SOWING

by Ashley Searle

SOWING IN GERMINATION TRAYS

There are some distinct advantages to sowing seeds in germination trays. Firstly, the environment for seed germination is much easier to control and certainly simpler to maintain. It is far easier to care for and give extra attention to many tiny seedlings in a small space such as a germination tray compared to a wide area of garden bed. During the critical early period of growth, when ideal conditions can make such a difference, this can be easily accomplished with far less time and effort by using a germination tray. This means the young seedlings can be grown to a size where they can be transplanted into the garden bed with much greater ease and a better chance of success. This will also help to overcome the problem of weeds overtaking the young seedlings in the garden. By planting out seedlings that are already 3 or 4 weeks old, these seedlings will already have a head start on any new weeds that may germinate in the garden bed because the garden soil can be tilled immediately prior to planting. However, if you were to plant the seeds directly into the garden, weed seeds may germinate at the same time and would quickly outgrow the plants that you have sown.



WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

- Searles® seed packets
- Searles® Seed Raising Mix
- A germination tray with a lid
- Searles® Liquid Seaweed Fertiliser

SOWING IN GERMINATION TRAYS — A STEP BY STEP GUIDE

1. Fill the seedling tray or seedling punnet with **Searles® Seed Raising Mix**. For best results, fill at least 1 inch, preferably 2 inches deep.
2. Follow the directions on the seed packets for the depth of sowing.
3. Moisten the seed raising mix with a dilute application of **Searles®**





Liquid Seaweed at the rate of 200 parts water to one part liquid seaweed (50ml liquid seaweed to 10litres water). Do this gently with a fine spray so as not to disturb the tiny seeds and make sure that all the mix has thoroughly been moistened.

4. Cover the germination tray with a plastic lid to create its own microclimate. This will enhance seed germination, producing stronger and healthier young seedlings for transplanting later.
5. Be sure to keep the seed raising mix moist continuously until the young seedlings are to be transplanted. However, do not water so much as to waterlog the mixture as this may prevent germination success.

FERTILISING

Once the seeds have germinated and the young seedlings are beginning to produce new leaves, they will benefit from applications of **Searles Fish & Kelp Plus**. Start by applying at a dilute rate of 200 parts water to one part liquid fertiliser (50ml of liquid fertiliser in a 10 litre bucket of water). Then as the seedlings grow, increase the strength of fertiliser up to 100ml of liquid fertiliser in a 10 litre bucket of water. By raising seeds in the controlled climate of the germination tray, the young seedlings have a better chance of establishing themselves and becoming hardier and tougher. Once transplanted into the garden, they will flourish and grow with great vigour (and probably fewer empty spaces than if you had planted them straight into the garden bed.)

Some plant seeds are recommended for direct sowing as these do not take well to being transplanted.

