



GEORGINA



RECREATION AT HOME

Seed Starting 101 and Homemade Containers

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We all use toilet paper, right? Save those rolls for a great DIY seed starter kit!

Materials Needed:

- Seeds
- Toilet rolls (cardboard)
- Seed starting soil
- Plastic tray (to fit all toilet rolls snugly so they don't tip over)
- Plastic container for a dome
- Scissors

Seed Starting 101 Instructions

- The majority of seed instructions will list everything you need to start seeds, like when and where to sow, planting depth and spacing, special watering requirements and days to germination.
- You can use pre-made seed starter soil or you can make your own with a mix of three parts peat, two parts compost, and ten percent perlite. This mixture is light and holds moisture well, so it is wonderful for helping seeds germinate.
- Be sure to use a sterile mix if you are starting seeds indoors. Soil or compost from the garden will bring in all sorts of critters like soil gnats.
- All growing mediums will need some time to absorb water, so add moisture and let it soak in for an hour before planting.
- Germination will be best in a moist environment for most seeds, so keeping the soil damp and a greenhouse dome on top will keep the right amount of humidity for optimal germination. Keep the soil from drying out by checking it daily. Water gently, from the bottom where possible, so as to not damage the seedlings about to emerge.
- Seeds won't need light until they emerge from the surface of the soil, but then they will need strong sunlight for most of the day to prevent them from becoming leggy (overly tall and spindly = weak).
- Hardening Off: As the seedlings grow into plants and the date to plant outside is getting near, it's time to start hardening them off, or toughening them for their natural environment. Start by opening a window a few hours a day so they get a breeze. Then start moving the trays outside, out of direct sunlight, for a few hours. Start at one hour and gradually increase to a full day outside. By the time your plant date has arrived, you can safely transfer your tough little soldiers directly into the ground.



Toilet Roll Pots Instructions:

- Cut tissue roll in half
- Then cut four ½" long slits on the bottom of one end, equally spaced to make four flaps
- Fold over flaps like closing a box
- Fill ¾ full with soil
- Plant seeds according to seed packet directions
- Follow directions above for care and final planting