

Seed Starter Instructions

Getting a plant to start growing from a seed can be the most difficult part of gardening. To make things easier people use seed starters – the little paper pots you see in the gardening section of stores. You can start to grow your seeds in those and plant the whole thing in the ground once you have a sprout coming up.

But you don't need to buy those special little pots! Instead, you can create your own seed starters using scrap paper that you have left over. This is also a great way to reuse and recycle old paper!

Materials

- Scrap construction paper – as much as you have available.
- A bowl
- Water
- Ice cube tray – can also use cupcake tins
- Seeds
- Blender – optional but very helpful

Instructions:

Step 1: Tear or cut the scrap paper into tiny pieces (the smaller the better!) and place into bowl. (skip this step if you have a blender)

Step 2: Mix water into the paper pieces until the paper holds together when it is squeezed. Think of it as a thick paste or Play Doh.

If you have a blender – you can place larger paper pieces and water in the blender and pulse together until you have a paste-like substance.

Step 3: Gently mix in seeds to the paper mixture.

Step 4: Fill the ice cube tray with the mixture, packing it down tightly. You can fill as many slots as you would like, and it is okay if some of the tray is left empty.

Step 5: Let sit for 1-2 weeks until you start to see sprouts coming up through the top. At this point, the paper should be able to hold together on its own. You can remove it from the tray

Step 6: Prepare a shallow hole in the spot you want to grow your new plants. Place the whole paper block in the ground, making sure to keep the green sprout above the soil as you bury it.

Once your seed starter is buried, the paper will be able to decompose over time leaving just the plant left in the soil. There is no harm in leaving the paper underground and is better than it ending up in a landfill!

Continue to water your new plants and watch them grow. Over time you may see pollinators and other wildlife come to visit your garden as it creates food and shelter for different species!