

Stratification



Stratification is a **cool, moist** treatment on seeds that mimics the natural conditions that a seed would experience in winter and spring. Stratification is necessary for some kinds of seeds to break their dormancy so they will germinate. The ideal temperature for stratification is just above 0 °C, **around 1-4 °C**.

Outdoor seeding

Direct seed in the ground outside in **late fall** (Oct-Nov, while the ground is still workable, before it snows) or **early spring** (Mar-Apr, as soon as the ground is workable, while the days are still cool).

Indoor seeding

1. Wrap seeds in moist paper towel, and place the paper towel in a sealed plastic bag in the fridge or a coldroom for **6 weeks**.

- Squeeze out most of the water (until no more drips fall), as mold will grow if the paper towel is too wet.
- Seeds can also be stratified in moist sand, peat, or vermiculite (squeeze out as much water as possible) in a sealed plastic bag in the fridge or coldroom.
- After stratification the seeds can be planted normally.

OR

2. Plant the seeds in peat plugs or small pots, water well, allow to drain, wrap in plastic, and place in the fridge or coldroom for 6 weeks. Check on the seeds or pots regularly and keep moist. If the seeds begin to sprout before 6 weeks have passed they can be removed from the refrigerator early.