Growing your own plants from seed is one of the most rewarding tasks that a gardener can undertake. Not only is it cost cutting it is really easy once you have the 'know how'. With the following guide we will have you growing a wide selection of plants ready to fill your garden with pride in no time!

What you will need:

- Oderings Seed Raising Mix.
- Clean containers to sow into. Consider plug/seedling trays, punnets, Jiffys, or containers which aren't too deep but have good drainage.
- A light watering rose or watering can.
- A flat piece of wood to flatten soil down (if sowing into a seedling tray).
- Labels and marker pen.
- Seeds of your choice.
- Sieve.
- Vermiculite may be needed for some seed choices.
- Plastic to cover containers or a propagator is well worth using.

Let's get started

Step 1: Fill your container evenly to the top with Oderings Seed Raising Mix and then press down gently. Use your piece of wood if you're sowing into a seed tray or use your fingers for plug trays. Preparation pays off in the long run, so don't hurry this step. You should have a small indentation in your container or seed tray of around 5–10mm depending on the size of the seed. Most seeds require a depth of twice the thickness of the seed.

Step 2: Select your seed. Cut open packet neatly and use the pack as a dispenser or you can purchase a specially designed 'seed sower'. These seed sowers are cheap, easy to use and save on wastage especially with the smaller seeds which are hard to handle.

Step 3: Sprinkle seeds over seed tray in a top to bottom then a left to right pattern to ensure even coverage. Try not to get large clusters of seeds together. If using plug trays, place one seed per cell. Plug trays have individual holes and are suited to larger seeds, where seed trays are suited to smaller seeds as it is very difficult to put a single small seed in each cell.

Step 4: Gently press the seeds down onto soil with your piece of wood (or with your finger in cell trays); this anchors the seeds into place.

Step 5: Sieve a layer of Oderings Seed Raising Mix over the area. Some seed may require a layer of Vermiculite instead. Vermiculite is used to cover seeds that need more light to germinate. Brush off excess soil from the tray.

Step 6: Make labels. Your label should include the variety of the seed and the date sown. Good record keeping is very important to track your seedlings' growth.

Step 7: Lightly water your trays with a fine rose or watering can. Water evenly with no puddles forming; you don't want to wash away your seeds or have clumps forming.

Step 8: Cover with a light clear plastic or place inside a propagator. This will help create humidity and stop from drying out quickly. Place covered tray or propagator in a position with plenty of light. A temperature of 18°C is ideal for most seed.

Step 9: Check watering daily and for seed germination. It is very important not to let your seeds dry out or get waterlogged. A light water in the morning should be enough. Once your seeds have germinated, the cover should be removed to stop seedlings from getting spindly.

Step 10: Once the seed has germinated and grown enough to transplant out (around 3–5cm), make a hole in the soil of your garden or pot and add some Oderings Potting & Basket Mix. If transplanting from a seed tray, gently use a pen to dig down beside the root ball of your seedling and lift it from the soil; this ensures you take as much of the root as possible when transplanting. Place the seedling in the hole, firm the plant in by pressing on each side gently and make sure the plant is no deeper or higher in the soil than it was when originally planted. Give it a light water.

I love Jiffy and here at Oderings we have everything Jiffy you need to start seed sowing, including Jiffy Pellets and Jiffy Pots. With the Jiffy Pellet simply wet the pellet, place your seed in the middle and you're done. For Jiffy pots you will need to fill them with Oderings Seed Raising Mix first and then you're ready to sow. These products are perfect for starting larger plants like tomatoes, pumpkins, courgettes and cucumbers.

Once the seed has germinated and grown enough to transplant out (around 3–5cm for the pellets, and up to 10cm in the pots or cell trays), make a hole in the soil of your garden or pots and add some Oderings Potting & Basket Mix, place the seedling in the hole still in the Jiffy and fill in the hole with more potting mix if needed, then firm in. It's as simple as that. The best thing about Jiffy is they are bio-degradable and there is no transplanting shock to the plant.

By growing your own seeds you can have crops all year round, sow seed earlier and have a better survival rate as opposed to open-ground sowing. Seeds such as carrots, parsnip, beans, beetroot, peas and radish should all be planted in open ground as they dislike root disturbance.

At Oderings we have a wide selection of seeds to get your green thumb growing. Our friendly knowledgeable staff are on hand to help you choose what and where to start.

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Seed Sowing