

Deep-Root Seedstarting System

Planting Instructions

1. Moisten approximately 6 quarts of finely milled soilless germinating mix with 4 cups of lukewarm water until the mix feels slightly damp. We recommend our Germinating Mix (#03-199).

2. Place the Platform in the Water Reservoir Base (See Figure 1). Be sure the lip around the rim of the Platform is positioned up. Moisten the Capillary Mat then lay it on the Platform (shiny side up) with the Mat extending over the unnotched end. Make sure the extended end of the Mat is inside the Reservoir.

Fill the Reservoir with water. You can check the level of the water by looking into the notched opening.

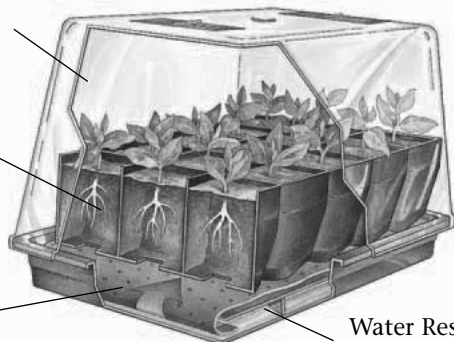
3. Place the Deep Root Cell Pack on the Capillary Mat, then fill each cell with the moistened soil. Gently press the soil into each planting cell so the cell is completely filled. If necessary, add more moistened soil to top off each cell. To ensure capillary action is established, the soil in the bottom of each cell must make contact with the mat. If it does not, firm the soil until it contacts the mat.

Dome Cover with vents holds in heat and moisture for fast germination

Deep Root Cell Pack

Capillary Mat draws up water like a wick to seedlings.

Figure 1



Water Reservoir Base with Platform

4. Plant one or more seeds into each cell following the seed packet instructions. Each cell is designed to hold one plant. Group seeds with similar temperature, moisture or light level needs in the same Cell Pack.

5. After planting, water the cells thoroughly from above and place the Dome Cover on top. Watering the soil from above ensures that the soil will have good contact with the Mat and will continue to wick moisture from the Mat to the germinating seeds. The Dome Cover will keep the soil moist and warm, and help your seeds germinate quickly. **Be sure to open the vents or remove the Dome Cover as soon as your plants emerge.**

Providing Light

Be sure to provide adequate light for young plants. Indoor artificial lighting provides a constant, controllable source of light that is better than winter sunshine. Leave the lights on for 14 to 16 hours a day and keep the bulbs one to two inches from the seedlings by raising the lights as the plants grow.

If you do not use grow lights, place the Deep-Root Seedstarter in a large south or

southwest window. Rotate it daily to help keep the plants from leaning toward the light.

Temperature

After germination, most young plants grow better in cooler air temperatures (65 to 70 degrees F). This will help reduce legginess. Good air circulation is also important.

Watering

The Water Reservoir will hold enough water to keep the Capillary Mat moist for about 5 days. Check the water level regularly. Add water through the notched end of the Platform. The Capillary Mat should be damp at all times. If it dries out, thoroughly moisten the Mat to re-establish the capillary action before replacing it under the Cell Pack. If the soil seems too wet, remove the Mat for a couple of days so the soil can dry out.

To keep roots from growing into the Capillary Mat, lift the Cell Pack off the Mat once or twice a week.

Fertilizer

To ensure a constant supply of nutrients for your seedlings, a diluted solution of liquid fertilizer may be added to the water reservoir. Foliar fertiliz-

ers can be sprayed onto plant leaves to keep plants stocky and healthy.

Transplanting

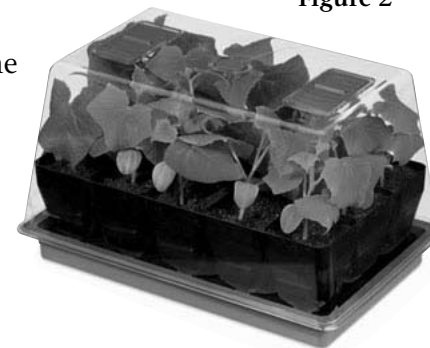
Your seedlings should be hardened off slowly before they're planted in the garden. Do this by placing them outside for a few hours each day for 1 to 2 weeks, gradually increasing exposure to sunlight and wind.

Once you have transplanted your seedlings into the garden, you may want to plant a second crop of seeds and place the Seedstarter directly outdoors. The seeds will germinate quickly in the springtime sun and can then be transplanted into the garden.

Cleaning and Reusing the Deep-Root Seedstarter

Wash all parts of the Seedstarter with warm water to remove soil and other debris from surfaces. Soak the Capillary Mat in a diluted bleach solution and rinse in clean water. (All plastic parts of the Seedstarter are dishwasher safe.) Store the entire unit away from sunlight when not in use.

Figure 2



Ordering Information

- #35-657 Deep-Root Seedstarting System
- #03-199 Germinating Mix, 9 qt
- #03-215 Transplanting Mix, 30 qt
- #31-279 PHC for Seedlings, 8 oz
- #35-696 15-Cell Tray
- #35-697 28-Cell Tray
- #35-698 40-Cell Tray

To order, please call or visit our web site for current prices.

PHONE ORDERS: 1-800-427-3363 CUSTOMER SERVICE: 1-800-876-5520
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