



SEEDLING PRODUCTION

Technical guide

Seedling containers



ENGLISH



Leaf pots made with rolled banana or mango leaf



Seed trays or plastic bags



Substrate for seed trays or leaf pot



Sieve the soil



1 part well rotted manure

1 part well burnt rice husk or sand



After mixing, dampen with water



Squeeze soil to test it is moist but not wet

Sterilization



- » Stir continuously for 10 minutes
- » Do not allow to dry
- » Steam produced reduces pathogens
- » Avoid heating when dry, as chemical changes can occur

Solarization

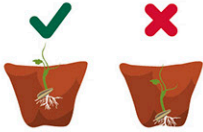
OR



Place the substrate in the bag in full sun for 4 hours minimum.

Sowing and seedling raising

Fill up seed trays or leaf pots with the substrate and sow.



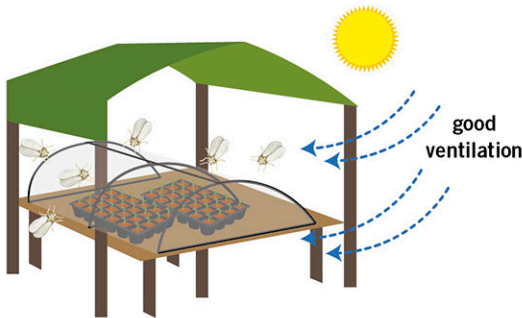
Sowing depth = size of 2 seeds



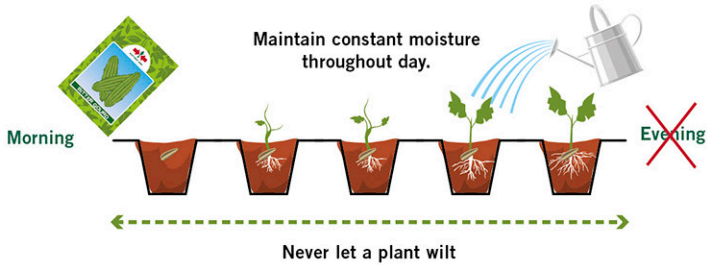
Use one seed per hole

If using good quality seeds, sowing can be done directly.

NO SOAKING. With cold weather, pre-germination could help



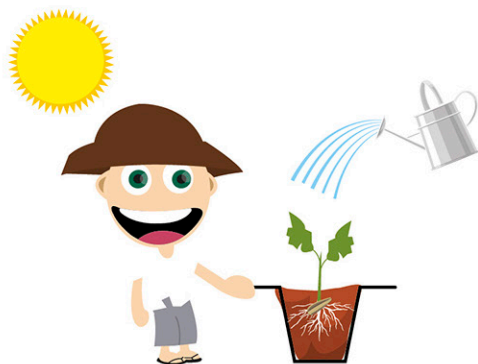
Cover the trays with fine netting to prevent sucking insects and risk of virus



Dissolve 10-15 g calcium nitrate, 15-15-15, or 18-46-0 in 10 liters of water and drench seedling tray. Use as needed 10 days after emergence.

Rinse the leaves with water after drenching

Hardening and Transplanting



Harden 2-3 days before transplanting
Less water, more sun.



Easy to transport to the field



Water lightly in morning so plug is not wet or sticky during transplanting in late afternoon



Avoid planting too deep or too shallow and water immediately after transplant



Strong healthy seedlings with a well developed root system

Benefits of improved seedling production

- » High quality, uniform seedlings for rapid field establishment
- » Easy to handle
- » No soil born disease
- » Trays can be re-used after proper washing and storage
- » Protected nursery prevents - sun stress, rain damage, insects virus transmission

<http://guides.eastwestseed.com>

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