

PRICKING OUT SEEDS

You will need potting mix, larger trays with lots of drainage holes, seedlings that have started growing their true leaves, label with name and date, a chopstick or long nail to help lift seedlings out of mix, watering can with rose attached or dish for tray to sit in while soaking up water from the bottom, a space with plenty of airflow, good light and shelter from the wind.



Make sure your seedlings are hydrated and fill your seed tray to nearly full and evenly press mix down. Gently pop the clump of seedlings out and begin separating the seedlings. Hold the seedling by the seed leaves (Cotyledon leaves) with your finger and thumb, you can then use a chopstick inserted into the mix to help lift the roots out. Or you can do what I have done in the photo and hold a leaf while you gently separate some mix with the roots inside.



Transplant your seedlings by making a hole in the mix down to the bottom of the tray with either your finger or chopstick. Continue holding the seedling by a leaf (instead of the fragile stem) and place the roots down the hole, avoid balling them up as this will cause the seedling to become root-bound as it gets bigger. Gently fill the hole in with mix around the roots. Allow the seedling to have some stem above the mix.



As you transplant, make sure to evenly space them in the tray so they have room to grow. Make sure to water them as soon as you have finished potting up the tray. I like to liquid feed at this point. Plant older seedlings out in the garden once they have several sets of true leaves (not seed leaves) while they are getting bigger in this tray you can begin to harden them off so they can survive out in the elements.

