



Coffee

Coffee plants need soil that is well draining. Add clean river sand, perlite or vermiculite heavy soil to increase its aeration and make it lighter and more well draining. Sandy soil will need plenty of compost and nutrients added to it to increase nutrient content.

Coffee plants like a growing medium that is rich in nitrogen and they are heavy feeders, as they are evergreen lush leafy green plants. They also require acidic growing medium which is best achieved with a fertilizer containing ammonium nitrate or ammonium sulphate.

Sowing method

- 1) Coffee seeds need to be soaked in lukewarm water for 48hrs before planting. Please change the water after 24 hours. Whilst most of the seeds should sink to the bottom those that do not may still be viable as they are very light seeds and sinking to the bottom is not always a good test for the viability of coffee seeds
- 2) After soaking drain, them and then sow them in damp sand or wet vermiculite, or put the seed between moist coffee sacks. When sown they should be sown at a depth of 5mm and should ideally be sown in seedling trays.
- 3) The ideal temperature for germinating coffee seeds is 25 to 30 degrees Celsius.
- 4) Seeds should be watered daily to keep the growing medium moist but not too wet / waterlogged.

Patience is required as the seeds can take 3 to 6 months to germinate. The seeds can be transplanted once they have a full set of leaves.© Seeds for Africa Limited

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