

SFA

Seeds for Africa

Cumin

Decide how to start your cumin seeds. Start cumin seeds indoors approximately two months prior to the last anticipated frost. Of course, you can sow the seeds later, starting them outdoors depending upon your geographical location and climate. The seed packet itself is the best place to check your starting method.

Space seeds about the soil surface (which should be $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way up when starting in trays or pots), paying little attention to space. Cumin is one of those plants that grows chaotically, and there is no need to worry about how far apart each individual seed is from its neighbor.

Cover the seeds with approximately an inch of starter or potting soil before watering. You should try to water in a gentle fashion so that the seeds aren't washed away. Be sure the seeds are thoroughly soaked and keep them moistened until strong seedlings sprout or you are ready to plant outdoors.

Plant seedlings in a sunny spot in the garden in good soil approximately 3 to 4 inches apart. Be sure to continue a regular watering of the plants and keep the area weeded. The cumin grows to about 12 inches in height.

Observe a noticeable change in the color of the plant's seeds before harvesting. Gardening shears or household scissors allow for easy clipping of the seed heads. Be sure to leave a reasonable amount of stalk on the heads for hanging.

Put clipped seed heads into a brown paper bag and store upside down to ripen. It is a good idea to tie the stems to the bag by wrapping with household string. The seeds will fall into the paper bag as they dry.

Store collected cumin seeds in airtight containers until used. Remember to replant cumin annually to ensure a steady supply.

No part of this document may be reproduced, copied or distributed without the express written permission of the Directors of Seeds for Africa Limited.

www.seedsforafrica.co.za

Seeds for Africa