

Thank you for purchasing this Garland Automatic Temperature Control Electric Propagator. You are now the owner of arguably one of the most valuable pieces of equipment for the keen gardener. This propagator unit will help you to grow new plants from seed and also root cuttings taken from existing plants. Growing from seed or cuttings is an immensely rewarding and cost effective means to add variety and colour to your garden. As a quality product, this electric propagator should give many years of gardening pleasure.

WHY USE AN ELECTRIC PROPAGATOR?

Successful propagation requires heat, as the ideal time to propagate is during the colder months in propagation for the new season, it can be difficult to achieve the even heat required, particularly at night. An electrically heated base is therefore the ideal piece of equipment to greatly increase your chances of success. This unit has been designed to automatically maintain the compost temperature at 19 degrees Celsius (+/-2 degrees). *Please note that the electric heated base is designed to transfer gentle heat to the compost – when the heat is on, it will feel warm rather than hot to the touch.*

SAFETY WARNING – IMPORTANT

While this product has been manufactured to stringent safety standards your urgent attention is drawn to the following guidelines when using this electric propagator. *Remember water and electricity do not mix. Never submerge this unit in water. Remove trays from heated base prior to watering. The supply cord cannot be replaced. If the cord is damaged the appliance should be scrapped.*

POSITIONING YOUR HEATED PROPAGATOR

For optimum performance, ensure that you do not position the unit near a heat source or in an area prone to strong draughts. While it is important to place the unit in an area with good natural light, don't position in direct sunlight, as this can result in 'solar gain' causing a damaging rapid temperature rise inside the propagators.

HOW THIS UNIT WORKS

The heated base regulates the compost temperature using a fixed temperature thermostat. The indicator light will indicate when the thermostat switches the heat on. If the surrounding air temperature is warm only short bursts of heat will be required to maintain the optimum compost temperature so you should not expect the 'heat on' indicator to light very often.

FIRST STEPS IN PROPAGATION

The three ingredients to achieve successful propagation from seed or from cuttings are simple – heat, light and water.

Good preparation is critical to achieve successful propagation. Ensure that the compost is warmed to a constant temperature before sowing or planting. When sowing a variety of seeds, we recommend that you label each tray, as young seedlings can be difficult to identify.

Hygiene should be uppermost in your mind, as many seedlings and cuttings are lost through disease. Keep your work area and equipment clean and ensure that old seed trays are sterilised thoroughly. Our simple 10-step guide to seed and cutting propagation is detailed overleaf. Please note that although this constitutes accepted good practice, we would also refer you to the instructions as given by seed manufacturers for optional results.

10 EASY STEPS TO SEED PROPAGATION

1. Fill each seed tray to the brim with a quality seed compost and dampen using a fine spray
2. Firm down the compost gently before sowing using a flat based tool.
3. Sow the seeds carefully between finger and thumb rather than sprinkle straight from the packet.
4. Cover the seeds with a depth of finely sieved compost equivalent to the thickness of the seeds. Note: This is not necessary with fine seeds such as begonias.
5. Water well using a fine spray but do not soak and cover with a clear lid.
6. Position the propagator in an area with plenty of light but avoid strong sunshine which can damage young seedlings.
7. When the seedlings appear, you should decrease the humidity within the propagator by gradually opening the ventilators on the cover. Once the humidity levels have dropped, you can remove the cover altogether.
8. Do not be afraid to 'prick out' the seedlings with a dibber if they are crowded together. Crowding can cause oxygen and light starvation and you will achieve better results by selecting the healthier seedlings.
9. When the seedlings are large enough to be handled, they should be transplanted into pots or trays, to allow them greater space to develop. Be careful to handle young seedlings by the leaves only.
10. The young plants will then need a further 'hardening off' period indoors prior to planting outside. Remember young plants are very susceptible to frost, so watch the weather!

10 STEPS TO ROOTING CUTTINGS

1. Fill each seed tray to the brim with a quality cutting compost and dampen using a fine spray.
2. When selecting cuttings, choose non-flowering, fast growing shoots, approximately 3 inches' long
3. Using a knife, trim the stem carefully just below the leaf node.
4. Remove all the leaves from the cutting, except three to four at the tip of the shoot
5. Dip the cut end into a hormone cutting powder (available at all good garden centres) and tap off excess. This will help to increase the chances of successful rooting.
6. Insert the cutting into the compost to a depth of approximately one and a half inches and firm the compost down gently.
7. Water well using a fine spray and cover with a clear lid, ensuring that the ventilator is closed in order to generate the required humidity.
8. When signs of active growth appear, gradually open the ventilator(s) to reduce the humidity levels before removing the top completely. Be patient! Most cuttings will root in time.
9. Once the cuttings have rooted successfully, you will need to pot them on individually to give them greater room to develop.
10. The young plants will then need a further 'hardening off' period indoors prior to planting outside. Remember young plants are very susceptible to frost, so watch the weather!

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