

<u>PAPAYA SEED – GERMINATION INTRUCTIONS.</u>

Seed Preparation:

- 1. Rinse seed in clean water 3 times to remove any residues
- 2. Place seeds in a cup or vessel with clean, room temperature water.
- 3. Allow seeds to soak for 24 hours. Remove seeds that have sunk and plant them.
- 4. Drain all the water and fill again and let the remaining seeds soak for another 24 hours.
- 5. Plant the seeds that have sunk and discard the rest.

During the soaking phase make sure to use very clean water. If the water has bacteria or is dirty it can drastically reduce the % of germination.

Germination:

Once the seeds have been saturated with clean water they can be germinated in several ways.

It is best to start seedlings in sterile soil or seedling mix, in 4-inch pots and avoid dust and other vectors of soil borne diseases. Seeds can also be germinated in cotton slings. Either way, the medium containing the seed needs to be sterile and kept moist at all times.

Given the correct environment (full days of sun and temperatures above 78 F), seeds will begin to germinate within 3 weeks (for Hawaiian Seeds and within 14 days for all other papaya seeds)

If seeds are in slings, each germinating seed needs to be carefully transplanted to a pot with sterile soil.

During germination it is preferred to have seeds under cover to protect them from birds, rats and other pests that will eat the seed. Once the seedling reaches 4-6 inches in height it can be transplanted to the prepared planting location.

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