

Windowsill Lavender Planter

Germination Best Practices

We've developed this detailed set of guidelines and tips that if followed closely will get you growing like a pro!

The most important thing to know before starting your Lavender Kit - lavender seeds take longer to germinate than most other varieties.

- Lavender seeds can take anywhere from 2-4 weeks to germinate depending on conditions, as opposed to the shorter germination period (1-2 weeks) for most herbs and vegetables.
- Growers must be vigilant to keep seeds and soil consistently moist during this extended germination period. This means checking the soil moisture level daily to ensure seeds are continuously wet. Avoid extended periods away from your planter like traveling for vacation to be able to monitor your planter.

Planting and Germination Tips

- Plant at least 8 seeds near the center of your planter. Lavender has a lower average germination percentage, so give yourself good odds to get a couple of seedlings right near the center.
- After planting seeds $\frac{1}{4}$ " deep in soil, take care to water the soil delicately as to avoid displacing or uncovering the planted seeds. We recommend using a watering can with a gentle spray nozzle that will sprinkle your soil with water rather than a large stream nozzle or regular pour. Alternatively, a spray bottle can be another useful tool for delicate watering.
- Temperature and humidity are key parts of the germination process!
 - Optimum temperature for lavender germination is 80 degrees fahrenheit, so keeping your planter in a spot consistently near this temperature will go along way to ensuring successful germination.
 - To keep humidity high near your seeds, place the planter lid over the opening to trap moisture. In addition, you can use a spray bottle to mist inside the planter - the smaller droplets of water will more easily increase humidity.
- Within 1 month of planting, you should see small seedlings emerge from the top soil. These seedlings will be extremely delicate, as root structures will be in the early stages of development. Take care to water gently near these seedlings, avoiding too much water drenching the green stem and leaves.
- Once seedlings are beginning to grow a second set of leaves, watering methods should change.
 - Lavender is a drought-resistant plant and prefers drier soil after germination. Give the soil time to mostly dry out between each watering.

Alternative Method of Germination - “the plastic bag + paper towel trick”

Over the years, gardeners have developed innovative ways to increase successful lavender germination. Back to the Roots is a fan of one particular method that utilizes a plastic bag and paper towel - check out the easy steps below!

Materials Needed:

- Small plastic bag (1 quart is good!)
- Stack of 2-3 paper towels
- Spray bottle
- Lavender seeds

Instructions:

- Fold half of the paper towel stack into a square that will fit inside your plastic bag.
- Carefully rinse lavender seeds of any dirt or dust and sprinkle onto the paper towel.
- Use the spray bottle to dampen the seeds and paper towel.
- Place the other half of the paper towel stack on top of the seeds and dampen with the spray bottle. Place inside the plastic bag.
- Place the plastic bag in a spot that will get indirect light. Leave the plastic bag unsealed so that air can flow to the seeds, but check daily to make sure the paper towel and seeds remain consistently moist.
- Lavender seeds will take 2-4 weeks to germinate, but you will be able to see seedlings that sprout very clearly on the paper towel.
- Once a seedling sprouts, use tweezers (or careful fingers!) to remove seedling from paper towel. Transplant into moist top soil of your planter, taking care to gently pack in soil around the sprout and root. Arrange so the very top of the seedling (with leaves starting to develop) pokes out of the soil, and add some more water around the newly transplanted seedling to settle the soil.
- Not all lavender seeds will sprout at the same time! As additional seedlings sprout in your plastic bag, transplant 1-2 more into your planter but spaced out from your existing seedlings.