

TIPS ON PRESPOUTING SEEDS

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You can pre-spout many seeds. Pre-spouting seeds saves much time off of germination.

PEAS

Dissolve 1/2 of a 150 mg Vitamin C tablet in a quart of water and soak peas for 12-48 hours. Great way to germinate old or new peas.

After soaking, place seeds between damp paper towels and into an open plastic baggie. They should sprout in a couple of days. Check daily.

As soon as they sprout, coat them in a legume inoculant powder and plant them about 1/2 inch deep in damp soil outside 1" apart. Or plant in pots inside to be transplanted outside later after the second true leaves are out.

Peas like to germinate in the warmth but can grow in the cold outside. Don't keep them too long inside. Plant outside very early in spring.

SPINACH

You can direct seed them or germinate them inside-EARLY. Older seeds take longer to germinate.

Soak seeds overnight. Put seeds in damp paper towel in a plastic baggie in the REFRIGERATOR for a couple of days.

Look closely for the little roots everyday because they will grow into the paper towel.

Temps above 70°F may give poor germination. Spinach likes to germinate in the cold-around 60°F. Most people plant too late in spring.

CARROTS

Soak seeds overnight. Put seeds on soil and press in. Put a board on top of them and check every day for germination. Take off the board when you see the little sprouts coming up. Then I put row cover on top of them to hold moisture in.

Thin out to one plant every 2 inches, cutting the unwanted one out rather than pulling and disturbing the other roots.

TOMATO SEEDS

Sow 6-8 weeks before last frost date.

Soak them in water for 2 hours, not overnight. Drain water.

Put them between layers of damp paper towels inside an open plastic baggie and then put on seed mat or warm place. 70 °F is optimum.

Check daily until the little root starts to come out.

Use tweezers to gently plant each one into a small pot with damp soil about 1/4 inch deep. I use a pencil to make the hole. Be careful as you don't want to break off the new root.

PEPPERS

Sow seeds inside 8-10 weeks before last frost.

Boil 8 cups water for 10 minutes to sterilize it and put 1/4 cup bleach in 1 cup of the water.

Put the seeds in row cover bags (scrap pieces) and swish them around so all seeds get wet.

Then swish the seed bag in one cup of the sterile water, rinsing them. Repeat this 6 times in one cup of sterile water each time, swishing them well so all the bleach is gone.

Bleach treated pepper seeds germinate much faster when bacteria and fungal spores are killed.

Then either pre-sprout them like above putting them in damp paper towels in baggies on the heating mat (they like 80°F) If soil is colder, it may take many weeks to sprout.

Then plant into small pots and transplant several times inside.

When you transplant outside when danger of frost has past, put a tablespoon of sulfur in the bottom of the hole with the soil.

When plant starts blossoming mix a quart of water with 2 tablespoons of epsom salts and spray plants-you will have more blossoms than ever.

