

# My seeds are not growing!

We work to prepare our garden, we follow the planting schedule for our area, we monitor the temperatures and THEN...partial germination or nothing comes up at all!

Just a few tips ...*since we believe you have the best seeds you can buy!*

## Most probable cause list

**PLANTING TOO DEEPLY** – this is one of the major factors associated with seeds not sprouting correctly. Follow your planting guides in your Growing Guide documents! Rule of thumb – depth should be no deeper than three times your seed. Raised beds also offer you some germination benefits; the soil both dries out and warms up quicker.

**SOIL TOO COLD** – sometimes we get a little anxious to get our seeds in the ground. When the soil is too cold germination may be uneven or not at all. Solutions: 1. Plant a little later in the season, 2. Start your seeds indoors and then transplant them after the danger of frost has passed.

*Planting too deeply and cold soil account for the majority of germination problems.*

**IMPROPER SOIL PREP** – sometime “more is better” can be a kiss of death to germination. Fresh manures, such as; chicken, rabbit, turkey or hog can create too much heat in the soil and can destroy your seed. Hint: use your heavy manures in the fall rather than in spring. (Chemical fertilizers can also create the same problem – follow instructions and/or talk to your local garden source.) – Hint: make sure your indoor starting soil is sterile to ensure proper germination and provide sufficient air circulation to your starts.

**WATER ISSUES** – after sowing your seeds and watering them (indoors or outdoors) press your soil firmly to ensure your seeds are in contact with the soil. Moist soil is the goal not soaking wet and when indoors use room temperature water whenever possible.

**POOR SEED QUALITY** – clearly we believe you have purchased the best seeds possible from Essential Seeds. We encourage you to store them in a cool place and to keep them in the Mylar packaging we have provided. If you have concerns about the germination rates use your germination test guidelines in your Seed Saver Guide or simply plant a few seeds (10-20) in a pot and seed how many germinate. We know many of you are storing your seeds, so are we, but we also recommend you start using some to become acquainted with the process.

**CRITTERS** – birds and squirrels love seeds and/or young seedlings and may get to your seeds before proper development takes place. (Birds can remove seeds without being obvious) Larger seeds like bean, peas and corn are especially high targets. If this is a problem simply re-seed and cover with some type of netting.

**BOLTING** – results when vegetable root crops and some leaf crops that fail to develop properly before going to seed. Bolting is aggravated by sowing seeds in soil that is too cold, sowing the wrong time of the year, high nitrogen soil or soil that is too wet. Bolting – root crops will go to seed before developing the root crop and leaf crops you will see a few leaves form and then it goes to seed. So, follow your Guide.

## Enjoy your gardening efforts!

The Seed Guys