



The seeds of many native plants have built-in dormancy mechanisms that protect them from germinating before killing frosts or in times of drought. In the wild, seeds will lie dormant until the proper conditions for growth occur. But in cultivation, the successful gardener must become familiar with several simple pre-sowing seed treatment methods which will unlock the dormancy mechanism and stimulate quicker, more consistent germination.

Until you are ready to plant or apply pre-sowing treatment, seed should be stored in an open container in a cool, dry place, or in a sealed (airtight) container under refrigeration (33–40°F). Avoid rapid or frequent temperature changes and protect against rodents. Sow seeds shallowly and keep seedlings carefully weeded. Periodic watering is helpful to establish seedlings. If seed does not germinate the first year, don't give up; germination may occur the second year or even later.

STEP-BY-STEP TUTORIAL FOR GERM CODE C: ARTIFICIAL STRATIFICATION FOR SEEDING FLATS



1 USING OUR GERMINATION CODES, CALCULATE THE DATE TO START COLD, MOIST STRATIFICATION PRE-TREATMENT. Rinse or complete a short soak. Pour into a coffee filter, paper towel or fine screen to drain.



2 ARRANGE SEED IN A SINGLE LAYER AND ALLOW ALL EXCESS WATER TO DRAIN OFF.



3 FOLD SEED LOOSELY INTO THE COFFEE FILTER OR PAPER TOWEL TO ALLOW FOR WEEKLY SPOT CHECKS. The seed and paper should be damp but not wet.



4 ADD A DRY PAPER TOWEL TO YOUR LABELED RESEALABLE BAG to help to maintain even moisture while pulling excessive moisture away. Do not allow the stratification medium to completely dry out or stay soggy.



5 PLACE THE SEALED BAG IN YOUR REFRIGERATOR (NOT FREEZER) and monitor weekly, or as needed, until it is time to remove for sowing. Replace coffee filter or paper towel often; repeat from step 1. Once seed has completed the recommended stratification period, or if excessive early sprouting occurs, plant immediately.