



JASMINE HILL

Gardens and Outdoor Museum

Seed Planting

What are seeds?

Seeds are baby plants enclosed in a hard shell we call the seed coat. When a seed is planted in soil and then watered, a series of chemical reactions take place that encourages the little plant to begin its life. It first pushes its tiny roots into the soil to get more moisture. Next its stem begins to grow, pushing its leaves up towards the light. Once its leaves reach the sunlight it begins to make food for itself using the sun as a source of energy. When it becomes an adult it will form seeds after it flowers just like its parents did, thus ensuring the next generation of plants. Good thing too, because all of our food, clothing, and even the air we breathe comes from plants!

How to plant a seed:

In a 3-inch plastic pot, place enough soil mixture to fill the pot to within $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of the top. Gently push a marigold, radish, or zinnia seed about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch deep and cover with a pinch more soil. Water the pot well, being careful not to wash the seed out with a gush of water and place the pot into a plastic zip-lock sandwich bag. The bag will help the seed stay moist until it germinates. Drying out at this stage would be deadly to the seed. Place the bag in a location where it will receive indirect light. When the seed has sprouted (between 2-5 days) leave the seedling in the bag but open the top so that it gets some air. Remove the plant from the open bag 3 days after sprouting and be sure to water it before it gets too dry. With a little luck and care your plant may reach adulthood, flower, and produce hundreds of seeds of its own!