

Getting Started – Instructions

A QUICK NOTE BEFORE YOU BEGIN!

Some seeds will need overnight **HEAT** treatment **BEFORE** planting! Please see page 2 for further instructions.



NOW, LET'S GET STARTED...

1. Unpack the box of all its contents
2. Put the tube-holding crate in the green base box
3. Fill each tube with soil, compact the soil, then place the tube in the tube-holding crate.

IMPORTANT: make sure you firmly compact the soil. Use the base of another tube to help you.

Note: When you first start to fill the tube, some of the soil may fall out the bottom. Don't be alarmed - keep going! As you put more soil in it will form a 'floor', and the soil stops falling out.

4. Using your little finger, make a hole about an inch deep in the soil in each tube.
5. **Make sure you have treated the seeds as instructed (see p2).**

Place 2 large seeds or a sprinkle of smaller seeds in the hole in the soil in each pot.

There are 8 pots for each of give varieties of seed – plant them in rows, randomly, or any pattern!

6. Cover the seeds with soil and press down gently to secure the seeds in the soil.
7. Mark or write the name of the species on the popstick and slide it down the edge of the pot.

You might also like to put the name of the person who planted it on the stick too!

Top tip: use a ballpoint pen or pencil. Other kinds of pens (e.g. textas) will bleed and run into the popsticks' wood when they get wet.

8. Give the seeds a good watering in. Use the 'Mist' setting on a garden hose, or be very gentle with a watering can, or add the water very slowly to the pots. You want to avoid disturbing the seeds as much as possible, or have them pushed to the surface by the water.

See the Resources page on our website for a DIY watering can made from a 2l milk carton!

9. Open out the shadecloth cover. Give it a little stretch to pull out the deeper creases.

Shadecloth protects the new seedlings from the harsh sun as they are germinating and beginning their growing journey – just as the forest trees would.

10. Starting at the back of the box, put the four 'legs' in the holes provided along the back edge of the box. We have created two holes so that you can adjust the cover to fit properly if needed.

11. Put the four 'legs' in the holes along the front edge of the box.



12. Go around the box and make sure all the 'legs' are through both levels of holes. Stretch out the cover as necessary. Shorten the legs with a pair of secateurs or strong scissors if necessary.
13. Secure the cover with the single Velcro strap at the back, and the three Velcro straps at the front.
14. Cut the flexible 4mm polytube into 8 lengths of 30mm each. Push them onto the ends of the frame 'legs' to stop them from being pulled out.
15. Take the thin stiff rods and screw one into the other to make a longer length. This will go inside the shadecloth cover at the top to keep it stretched out. You will need to cut it to fit. Secure with green twisty ties.

CONFUSED? Don't worry – just check out our 'Setting Up Your Nursery In A Box' video on the Resources page of our website – it's much easier to follow!

NO NEED TO FERTILISE THE SEEDS JUST YET! In fact, it can stop them sprouting! Feeding comes later.

WATERING. Check the soil every day – twice a day if it is a really hot day. If it is looking moist, leave the watering. If it looks like it is drying out, give them a water. Native seedlings actually like a bit of neglect! You may wish to do a 'Watering Roster' so that everyone gets a turn. A family will need to take the Nursery in a Box home to look after it on the weekend, especially in hot weather.

See the Resources page on our website for an easy-to-use Watering Roster.

TREATMENT OF SEEDS

Some species of seed require **HEAT** treatment **PRIOR** to planting.

The seed species in this box that need to be heat treated are:

- HARDENBERGIA Comptoniana (Native Wisteria)
- CHORIZEMA Cordatum (Flame Pea)
- TEMPLETONIA Retusa (Cockies' Tongue)

METHOD

- Place each type of seed in its own small container.
- Gently cover with boiling water, then leave overnight to cool
- Strain off the water, and plant the seeds as per instructions.



The Nursery-in-a-Box has been designed and is produced by The Greening Project – a not-for-profit organisation creating experiences for kids to connect with nature.

www.thegreeningproject.org

