

# UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

A COUNTY-STATE-FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP

**RAIL CITY GARDEN CENTER**

1720 Brierley Way  
Sparks, NV 89434

**STARTING TRANSPLANTS FROM SEED (775) 355-1551 • FAX (775) 355-8659**

[www.railcitygarden.net](http://www.railcitygarden.net)

Transplants are one of the best ways to save time and lengthen our short growing season by six weeks or more. This method can also avoid seedling hazards such as weeds, birds, insects and water problems. You can save money by developing your own transplants. You will also have a greater choice of varieties than are available at the nursery.

Methods for planting vary, but basic requirements must be met:

1. Disease free medium.
2. Warmth and moisture.
3. Adequate light.
4. Adjustment or hardening off period.

Containers: Containers must be clean and at least two inches deep. Cooking pans, cut off plastic jugs, milk cartons and small trays are satisfactory. The gardener may also find many containers on the market such as Jiffy Pots, fiber pots, Jiffy-7 Pellets and Jiffy Kubes. All are excellent.

Soil: Start seeds in a soil that is disease-free, light in texture, and holds moisture. Peat moss, perlite, or vermiculite are excellent seeding mediums. You may also use commercially prepared mixes such as Jiffy-Mix, Hyponex, or Pro-mix. Some blocks, pellets or Kubes are already filled with seeding medium and are ready to plant.

## RECOMMENDED PROCEDURES:

1. Sow seeds sparingly in containers filled with two inches of moistened medium. Plant at the depth listed on seed package (usually a depth equaling the thickness of the seed).
2. Water thoroughly and gently.
3. Cover container with clear plastic or slip into plastic bag.

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5. After the first true leaves appear, transplant to individual containers. If using Jiffy 7 or similar "plant-it-all" containers, thin to leave one healthy seedling. Transplants started in trays or flats usually produce many more transplants than needed. Consider swapping varieties with some gardening neighbors. Small, stocky seedlings make the best plants, remaining compact throughout their lives, blooming earlier and more abundantly.
6. Young plants need to be 'hardened off' before setting outdoors. Take them to a sheltered, shady area outside for increasing periods of time during the day and bring in at night.
7. When planting outside, disturb the plant as little as possible. Planting directly into the soil is the advantage of the Kube or pellet. Be sure to remove netting and plant the entire Kube or pellet below ground. This prevents excessive drying of the tender root zone.

## SOME SEEDS NEED SPECIAL TREATMENT

You must meet certain requirements for seed germination to take place. The seed must be viable, not stored so long under adverse conditions that it is no longer capable of sprouting. There must be a proper balance of moisture, light, temperature and oxygen in the seed's environment. Most annuals, vegetables, and some perennials and woody plants will germinate without difficulty.