DIY GERMATION TEST FOR SEED VIABILITY: PART 1

GATHER:
- Paper towels
- Water
- Seeds of unknown viability
- Sealable Plastic Bag
- Permanent Marker
- Container large enough to soak paper towels

1: Label bag. 2: Place towel
3: Soak towel. 4: Wring towel. 5: Gently untwist.
6: Repeat 1-5. Flatten towels. 7: Place 20 seeds on 1 towel. 8: Place other towel on top
9: Gently roll. 10: Place in bag. 11: Seal. Leave 1 inch gap.
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Materials needed:
• Paper towels
• Water
• Seeds of unknown viability

Tools needed:
• Sealable Plastic Bag
• Permanent Marker
• Container large enough to soak paper towels

1: Label a sealable plastic bag with the seed variety + year of seed & the date you started the germination test.

2: Place two paper towels into a container.

3: Pour water into container to moisten the paper towels. Flatten each paper towel and lay them side by side.

4: Twist towels to wring out excess water until paper towels are as wet as a wrung out sponge.

5: Gently untwist the wet paper towels.

6: Flatten and separate the paper towels, placing them next to one another.

7: Randomly select 20 seeds from your seed packet and arrange on one of the paper towels so that the seeds are not touching.

8: Place the second paper towel on top of the one with seeds and press down firmly.

9: Gently roll paper the paper towel.

10: Place the roll into the plastic bag.

11: Seal the plastic bag, leaving a one inch gap to allow for some airflow.

Sources https://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=12950
https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/1995/3-3-1995/seedv.html
1: Place the plastic bag in a warm place that reaches 70-80F (e.g. a window sill, the warmest room in your home or the top of your refrigerator). Light is not typically needed for germination, so a dark location is fine.

2: Mist paper towel as needed to keep the moisture level at that of a wrung out sponge.

3: Check for sprouts after 2-3 days and start keeping count.

4: Starting on day 3, check daily for sprouted seeds and continue for 7–10 days.

5: At day 10, get the final count of sprouted seeds, divide by 20 then multiply by 100 to get the seed germination rate, expressed as a percent.

6: You can try planting the germinated seeds or you can compost them.

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