

DIY GERMINATION TEST FOR SEED VIABILITY: PART 1

GARFIELD PARK
CONSERVATORY
ALLIANCE 

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



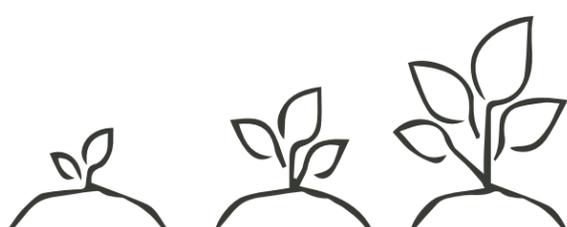
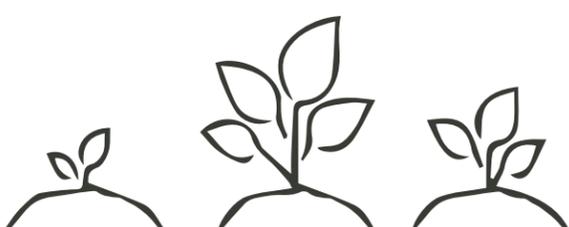
9: Gently roll.



10: Place in bag.



11: Seal. Leave 1 inch gap.



DIY Germination Test for Seed Viability: Part 1

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>



DIY GERMINATION TEST FOR SEED VIABILITY: PART 2

GARFIELD PARK
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- 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.



Wheat *Triticum aestivum* L. Germination Test: Wikimedia Commons

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