

## **Starting seeds indoors is easy with peat pellets:**

Spring is just around the corner, while the outside may be too cold to plant, right now is the time to begin starting seeds indoors. Peat pellets, also known as seed plugs, are really handy when you're starting seeds indoors. The seeds provided are either Watermelon or Cantaloupe. To get started follow these simple tricks.



### **1. MAKE SURE TO REMOVE THE SEEDS FROM THE PLASTIC CUP BEFORE YOU BEGIN.**

- 2.** After removing the seeds arrange your peat pellet in the middle of the cup with the side with the circle on it facing up. Pour warm water over pellet until they expand to their full size.
- 3.** Make sure that none of the netting has shifted over the top of the plug. If so take a pencil and pull the netting to the edge.
- 4.** Once they have expanded take your pencil and make a hole  $\frac{1}{4}$ " to  $\frac{1}{2}$ " deep. Add two of the seeds provided or use one of your favorite variety of seeds.
- 5.** Put the lid on your cup to create a greenhouse effect for your plant. Put your plants in an area where they can soak up indirect sunlight. You can also use a grow light, which can help give your plants the right amount of light they need. **Poke large ventilation holes in the lid so they do not overheat.**
- 6.** Don't water the pellets again until they start to look a little dry—they need to stay moist but not soaking wet. Once you start noticing the "true" leaves pop up and the cotyledons have withered away, take the cover off and move the pellets to an area where your plants can receive at least six hours of direct sunlight.
- 7.** Once your seedlings have grown a few inches taller, you may need to transport them to a bigger pot. This will allow the roots to spread out further and develop.
- 8.** Once the temperature start getting warmer, your plants should be ready to plant outside. However, you'll want to gradually acclimatize the plants to the sunlight and different climate. By the time the temperature warms outside, you should have stocky, healthy young plants. At first move your plants to a shady spot for increasing amounts of time, several days in a row. Bring them in or cover them if the temperature looks like it will dip. Gradually increase the amount of time outside and the amount of sunlight they receive until you see that they are growing strong and appear ready to go out on their own.
- 9.** Water your seedlings well before and after transplanting. Don't transplant them during midday, as it's the hottest part of the day.