



## Eggshell Seed Starters

Starting seeds in eggshells is very simple:

1. Save your eggshells from breakfast. Wash the eggshell seed pots out with warm, soapy water so they won't become sticky or smelly. Use an ice pick or heavy sewing needle to punch a drainage hole in the bottom.
2. Add soil to the eggshells. You want to be sure to use seed starting soil. This is a lighter soil that allows the root system to grow freely through the plant, creating a strong and healthy plant.
3. Now figure out what kinds of seed will you plant. Almost all garden vegetables are suitable as starter plants in eggshells, and beans, squash and cucumber can be transplanted into the garden about a week after they sprout. Smaller seeds are probably more suitable. Herbs are fun and easy to grow, or try flowers.
4. Add the seeds to the soil and slightly push down just until the seeds are fully covered. Make sure you don't push them too deep. If they are in the soil too deep, it will take longer for your seedlings to germinate.

5. Water your seeds. A spritzer bottle works well, especially for very small seeds, so that it doesn't push the seeds too deeply into the soil. Keep the soil moist, but not soaked.
6. Store eggshell plantings in the cardboard egg carton. If you really want to give your seeds a jumpstart, use a plastic egg carton and put the lid on. This will act as a mini greenhouse. Once your seeds sprout, remove the lid so that mold does not develop.
7. Put them in a sunny window and enjoy watching them grow.

The next step is sometimes the hardest...having the patience to wait until the weather is ready to plant outside.

When the weather is just right you can put the entire seedling into the ground and the eggshell will provide nutrients for the plant.

If the weather does not cooperate, and your seedlings are ready to go into the soil, you might have to transplant them into a pot until the weather permits. They can be transplanted straight into the pot, shell and all.