



# TIPS & TRICKS

FOR THE SMOOTHEST SEED STARTING EXPERIENCE

## SET IN STONE

Use a sharpie, permanent pen, or graphite pencil when marking your tags to avoid ink running or smudging by rain or watering!

## MINI GREENHOUSE

It's a great idea to add a plastic covering over your seeds, such as a plastic cup or takeout container, just like a mini greenhouse. This will help keep moisture and heat inside, which your seeds need to germinate.

## A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

Remove your plastic covering once the seedling emerges. While it's tempting to continue using it, it actually creates an environment that is too moist as the plant grows. Air movement is important for young plants!



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PIZZA GARDEN KIT  
GROW-A-LIBRARY KIT

## GETTING YOUR FEET WET

Get the most out of each watering by making sure you water low, and avoid getting the leaves or the stem wet. It won't hurt the plant to get a little wet, but the watering will be most beneficial if the bulk of the water reaches the roots.

## TOUGH IT OUT!

Plants adapt to their surroundings. Growing inside a house without sun or strong wind may cause your plant to have a thin, weaker stem. You can help by blowing lightly on your plant or gently 'tickling' its leaves to create the illusion of wind, encouraging them to bulk up a bit!

## SETTLING IN

It's also helpful to give your seedlings an adjustment period before you transplant. Your plant is not used to being outside in the heat and wind. Leave it outside in its container a few days before you plan to transplant. Place it in a slightly shadier spot than you plan to plant it in, and only take it inside in cases of severe weather. Make sure you don't let the soil dry out! Smaller pots will dry out faster in the heat.

## GIVING IT ALL YOU'VE GOT

As plants grow, you can add mulch near the stems to help retain moisture and keep weeds from taking over your plant's space. Some gardeners use liquid fertilizer or slow-release fertilizer pellets around the seedlings to supplement nutrients. All of these enhancements can help your plant thrive.