



## INFO GUIDE #1

# Germinating / Prepping Cannabis Seeds

There are three ways to begin growing cannabis at home: start from seed, take cuttings, or import genetics as fully established plants. Each option has its pros and cons; however, starting cannabis plants from seed is arguably the safest and most fulfilling process for beginners.

### Step #1: Obtain Seeds

Since you'll be spending weeks cultivating cannabis at home consider researching the characteristics of the type of plant you'll be growing. Cannabis genetics are divided into three categories: **Indica**, **Sativa**, and **Hybrid**. Different genetics have different growing characteristics. So, research the flowering time, potential yield, height, and growing requirements of the plants you'll be growing.



### Step #2: Scarring Cannabis Seeds

Scarring cannabis seeds or seed scarification is the action of gentle scratching the hard outer shell of a seed in order to speed up the germination process. Scarification is a good option to consider, especially if the seeds you happened to purchase are older than six months. All different types of seeds can undergo scarring; cannabis seeds, however, given their extremely tough shell, arguably have the most to gain. After scarring, even the oldest seeds will have an increased success rate and speed during germination.

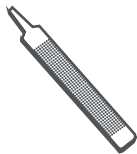
There are three popular methods of seed scarification:

#### #1: Sand Paper:



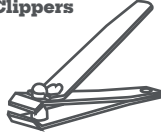
**Sand Paper:** Use a section of fine-grain sandpaper to scratch the seed's outer shell. Scratch until scars are visible, or until the fleshy part of the seed appears.

#### #2: Metal File



**Metal File:** Depending on the size and thickness of the outer shell, a fine-grain metal file may be necessary to scar the seed. Follow the same process of scarification above with this tool.

#### #3: Nail Clippers



**Nail Clippers:** Use the nail clippers to clip off a section of the shell at the bottom of the seed. Be careful not to damage the seed by chipping off too much of the outer shell.

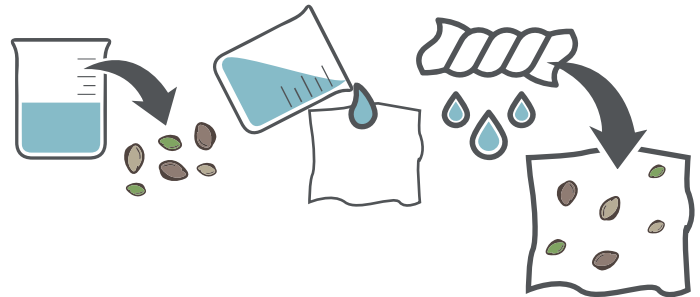
### Step #3: Soak Seeds

For successful germination, seeds require a few things: moisture (humidity), darkness, and nutrients. Prepare a nutrient solution of B vitamin and seaweed extract. Then, toss your seeds in the nutrient solution for a 15-20 minute soak. When using older seeds, consider leaving them in overnight for the best results.



### Step #4: Paper Towel Germination

After their bath, take each seed out and place them to the side. Then, soak a section of paper towel with the leftover nutrient solution. Afterward, wring the excess water and nutrient solution out of the paper towel. Place each seed in the center of the paper towel and cover them with the adjacent end.



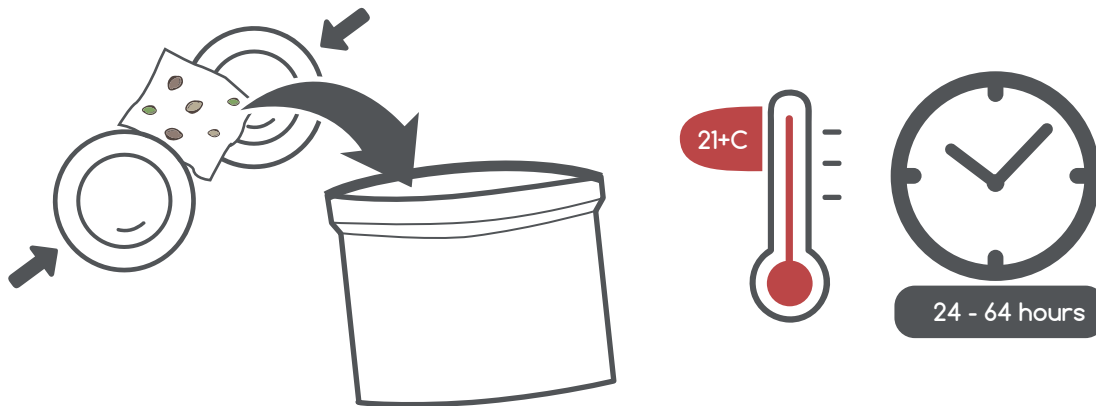


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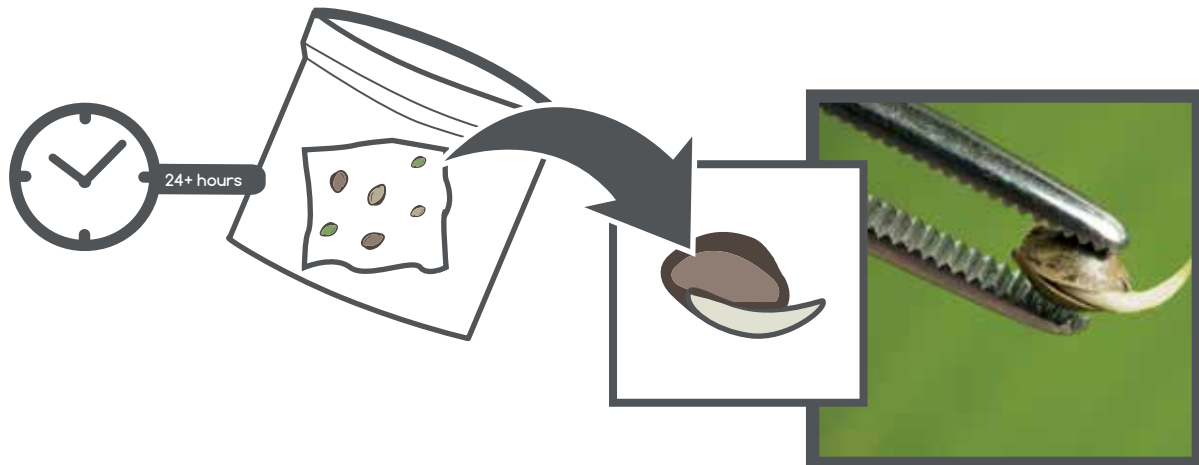
### **Step #5: Germination Stage**

Seed germination can take anywhere from 24 hours to a few days. To provide your seeds with an ideal environment, store them in a warm and completely dark environment. Place the paper towel and seeds in a plastic bag and then between two plates. Store the seeds anywhere in the home where temperatures will not drop below 70 degrees Fahrenheit (21°C).



### **Step #6: Determine Germination Success**

After giving your seeds at least 24 hours to germinate, open the plastic bag and examine each specimen. Successfully germinated seeds will have a large root exiting the top or bottom of the shell called the "tap-root". If you do not notice a tap root within 24 hours, don't panic, just place the seeds back into their germination container and continue to examine their progress daily.



### Read our blog for more info

- Types of Cannabis Seeds (Non-feminized, Feminized & AutoFlower)
- Pros & Cons for Auto Flower
- Cannabis Plants Characteristics



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