

Malunggay Germination Technology

1. Soak the seeds for 24 hours in a clean container. This process enables the seeds to absorb the water it needs to initiate the germination process.
2. After the soaking time, remove the seeds from the container then rinse with tap water for three times.
3. Drain properly to remove excess water. A plastic net bag is a good draining material for this process.
4. After draining, put the seeds in a plastic sandwich bag or black plastic bag or a cotton cloth and store in a warm, dark place such as drawer or cabinet. The germination time ranges from 3 to 14 days. Extra precaution - **Do not add extra water to the bag!** An additional or excess water may cause rotting of the seeds.
5. Check the stored seeds every two days. Observe for the following: once the seeds have broken or have started to loose from the winged shells, you will notice one or two shoots growing from a seed.
4. Do not let the shoots get too long and thin as they may get fragile and break when handled. Once the growing shoots or sprouts had reached the length of at least 3 cm, the seeds are now rdy for direct planting to the soil. You will also notice that one of the growing shoots have some ruffled growth at the extremity; this is the shoot that contains the first leaves (cotyledons) and this should be the shoot that is exposed to the sun.
5. Plant the seeds about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch beneath the soil surface with the ruffled extremity exposed to or facing the sun. If the sprouted seeds are to sown in pots or containers, use a high quality potting soil or sandy loamy soils will work well also.

Moringa loves the sun so make sure that the seedlings get plenty. Although Moringa seedlings are drought tolerant, they may be watered daily, ensure, however, that the roots do not get soaked for extended periods of time. If the seeds are sown or planted in a particularly hot areas, don not expose the young plants to all day sun. Keep an eye on them, or you will observe that they are getting distressed from too much sun, water or lack of food by exhibiting the following: yellowing of leaves, defoliation, thin and lanky stems, and other poor growth manifestations.

6. It may also be a good idea to pot to get the seedlings started in an appropriate or any available growing containers like cans, plastic bags or glasses, and the like. This enables more control over the care of the young plants or seedlings.

Very often, critters and grubs will feed on the Moringa seedlings if they can. It is recommended that potted plants grow at for least **8 weeks** or longer before transplanting to the ground. When transplanting, try not to disturb the root system at all. Like many plants the roots are very vulnerable to environmental until they are established on the ground.