

Direct Sowing Basics

For crops that dislike being transplanted

DIFFICULTY Easy
TYPE One-off technique, repeated each season
TIME 10–15 min per bed



DIFFICULTY
Easy



TIME
10–15 min/bed



COST
Low



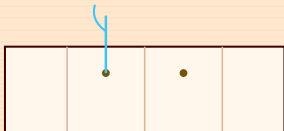
BEST SEASON
Per crop —
check individual
timing



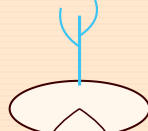
FREQUENCY
Seasonal

01 Straight into the ground

Root crops like carrots and parsnip, plus large seeds like beans and pumpkin, generally do best sown directly where they'll grow — transplanting disturbs the taproot or sets growth back.



seed tray, correct depth



growing on, or a rooted cutting

02 What you'll need

- Well-prepared, weed-free soil
- Seed appropriate for direct sowing
- A garden line or stake for straight rows
- Mulch for moisture retention after sowing

03 Method

1. Prepare the bed — loosen soil, remove weeds and stones, rake level.
2. Mark rows with a line or stake for even spacing.
3. Sow at the depth and spacing given for that crop.
4. Water in gently with a fine rose to avoid washing seed away.
5. Keep the surface consistently moist until germination — this is the most common failure point.

04 Troubleshooting

- **Patchy germination** — surface dried out; water more frequently in the first 1–2 weeks.
- **Seed washed away** — watered too heavily; use a fine rose or gentle hose setting.
- **Birds eating seed** — cover with netting or a cloche until germination.
- **Overcrowded seedlings** — thin promptly once true leaves appear.

05 Timing & maintenance

BEST TIME	Varies by crop — check frost dates and soil temperature requirements for the specific vegetable.
DURATION	Germination from a few days (radish) to a few weeks (parsnip).
MAINTENANCE	Water gently and consistently until seedlings are established; thin as needed.
SIGNS OF SUCCESS	Even rows of seedlings emerging within the expected timeframe for that crop.

06 Tips & variations

PAIRS WELL WITH

Starting Seeds Indoors

Saving Seeds

COMMON MISTAKES

Sowing too deep

Letting the surface dry out before germination

PRO TIP

Sow a little more thickly than needed, then thin — it's much easier than trying to fill gaps later.