

GERMINATION: it's in the bag!



Can you grow a sprout from a seed?

When a seed gets wet—and stays wet—and the temperature is right, the seed does something very special. First it sends out a root to look for more water. Then, it sends out a little sprout to find light. This is called GERMINATION. All the plants in The Meadoway started out as a small seed and had to germinate to begin their life as a plant!

When seeds are planted in soil, we only get to see the sprout part. In this activity, you'll get to see the root-growing part of germination too!



What you need:

- Seeds (or even just one seed)*
- Clear bag
- Paper towel
- Water
- A window

**Note: For seeds, it's great if you can use native meadow plant seeds, but you can even look around your house to experiment with apple seeds or other types, or outside for seeds from trees nearby. Just make sure the seeds have had a few days to dry before you start.*

What you do:

STEP 1: Wet your paper towel and lie it flat.



STEP 2: Place your seeds on half of the paper towel.



STEP 3: Fold the paper towel over so the seeds will be wet on both sides and place it in the bag.



STEP 4: Close the bag and tape or hang in the window (you can also lie it on the window ledge, but the roots are harder to check on)

STEP 5: Check your germination bag in the coming days and weeks. You can track your results in a notebook too by recording what day you started, when the root first showed, and when you first saw green!

STEP 6: Your little seedlings will soon need more space to grow bigger! When you're ready to hide those roots, carefully plant your seedlings into small pots and place them back in the window to watch them keep growing!

Some plant species have seeds with a short germination period of about a week, and some take longer to germinate. The temperature in the room can also have an impact—usually warmer temperatures help seeds to germinate faster.

Happy germinating!

TERMINOLOGY

Germination - when a seed produces roots and a sprout

Species - a specific type of plant or animal (e.g. *Silver Maples* and *Sugar Maples* are different species of maple trees)