

DIY Seed Tapes and Mats

Seed tape and mats allow you to prepare your seeds ahead of time in neat rows or grids, spaced out according to the recommendations on the seed packet. This is especially useful for the smaller seeds such as carrot, lettuce, and such. Correct spacing of your plants is critical to avoid overcrowding which can lead to disease. Correct seed spacing is the important first step. Correct spacing also can improve your harvests and save you time and money.

Home Made Seed Tapes with flour paste

- Cut strips of newspaper (1-2 inches wide) or toilet paper (1/2 width of the roll)
- Make a flour and water paste to use to 'glue' the seeds along the strip. Better to be too thick than too thin.
- Put a small amount of the glue in 'dots' along the strip the correct width apart or for some it is better to put half the width apart and thin out every other plant once they grow, most of which are edible. IE: Carrots/ spring onions place seeds 1 inch apart, lettuce 1 1/2 to 2 inches apart. Apply a seed to each 'dot'
- Dry strips well, label, and store until spring

Home Made Seed Tapes with sprayed water

- Cut strips of toilet paper for 2 or 3 ply paper (1/2 roll width) or use full width for single ply, fold in half along the length
- Spray with water (damp)
- Place seeds along the strip the correct width apart or for some it is better to put half the width apart and thin out every other plant once they grow, most of which are edible. IE: Carrots/ spring onions place seeds 1 inch apart.
- Fold both sides inward over the seeds. Spray again and pat down
- Dry strips well, label, and store until spring

Home Made Seed Mats

- Idea for square foot gardening and wide rows.
- Use paper towel sheets, or newspaper squares or wide strips the width of your garden row.
- Attach the seeds with flour and water paste and follow directions as for seed strips (above)
- Alternately use paper towel sheets, separate the layers carefully, spray one of the layers lightly, place the seeds in the correct spacing, cover with the second layer, spray again and pat down. Continue as above to dry and label your seeds mats.

Using Seed tapes and Mats

- For seed tape: Prepare your garden bed, make a shallow trough, place your tape in it, cover lightly with soil and water thoroughly.
- For mats: Prepare your garden bed. Rake a small amount of soil to one side. Lay out your mats, cover lightly with the soil and water thoroughly.