

Write the name of the seed you plant into the corresponding space on your Seed Starting Tray Diagram.



AeroGarden®



Seed Starting System Instructions

With the AeroGarden Seed Starting System, you can use your AeroGarden to start seedlings for transplanting into an outdoor garden.

You can start your Spring plants like lettuce and broccoli, then clean your tray and start over with Summer plants such as tomatoes and cucumbers. You can also use your Seed Starting System to clone plant cuttings!

First Seed Starting?

Set up your garden using the Quick Setup Guide, then proceed to Seed Starting System Instructions on Page 2.

Already grown a Seed Starting or two?

Follow the "Reusing Your Seed Starting System" instructions on Page 5.

When Should I Plant?

Seeds start quickly in an AeroGarden! In about 4 weeks (or less) your plants will be ready to transplant into an outdoor garden. Don't start your plants too soon!

If you are growing a cool-weather crop such as lettuce or broccoli, you can transplant as soon as the soil can be worked in Spring.

If you are growing a warm-weather crop such as tomatoes or peppers, wait to transplant until the danger of a late frost has passed. Your seed packages will tell you the right time to plant outdoors in your area. Back up about 1 month from that planting date to start your seeds in the Seed Starting Tray.

AeroGrow has a searchable online resource section.

For more detailed information about growing in your AeroGarden,

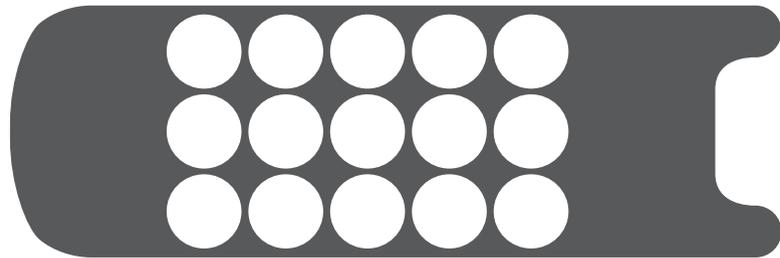
please visit: www.aerogarden.com

1-800-476-9669 customerservice@AeroGrow.com

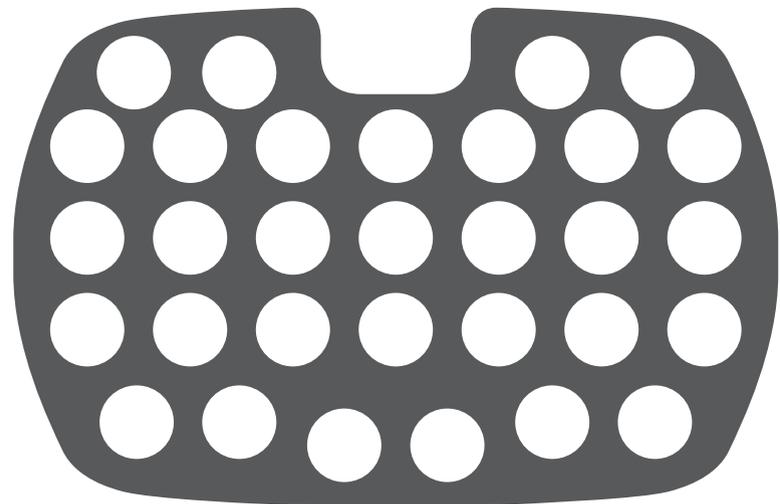
facebook

We also have an active Facebook Community that loves to answer questions at [facebook.com/aerogarden](https://www.facebook.com/aerogarden). "Like" us for special offers and community fun!

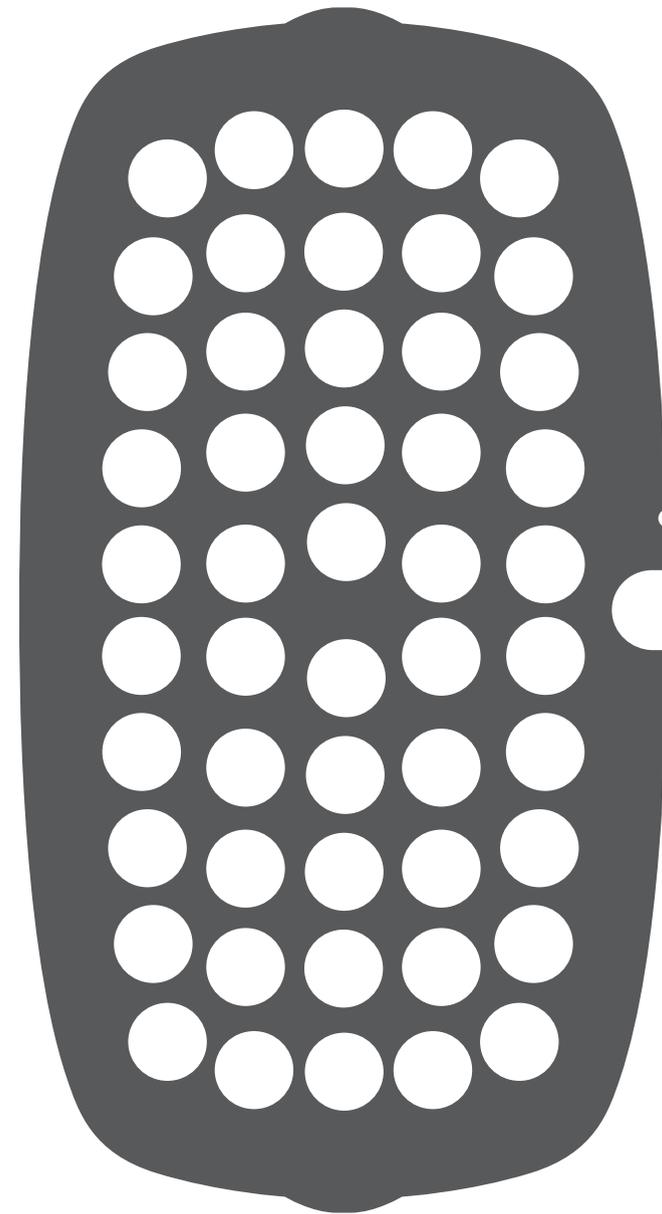
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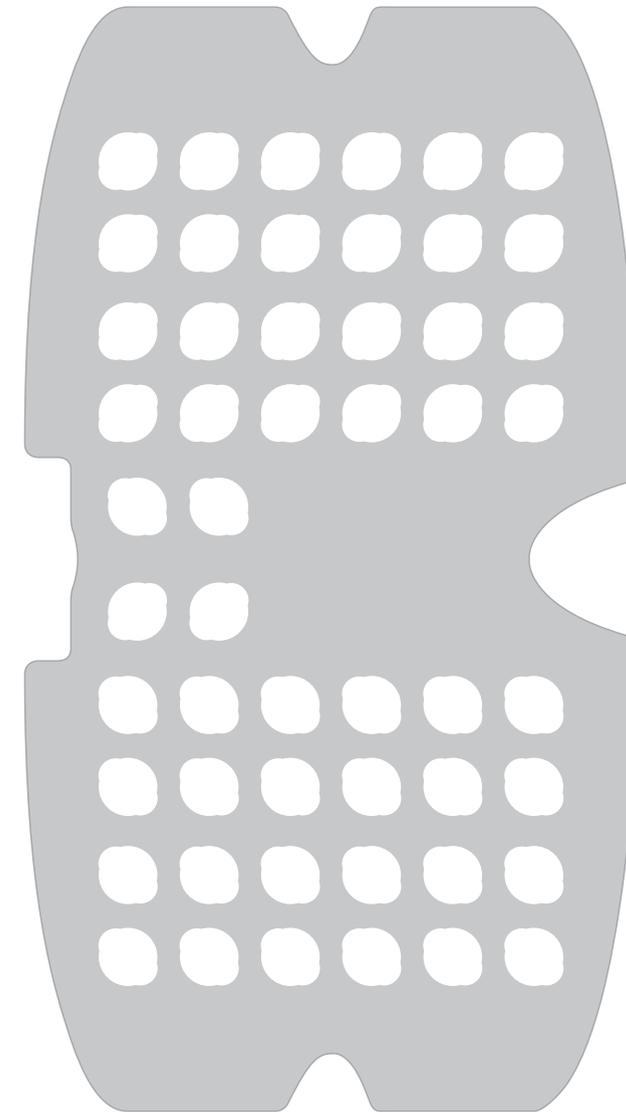
15 Pods - Plastic Seed Starting System
for Sprout model



31 Pods - Plastic Seed Starting System
for Harvest models



50 Pods - Plastic Seed Starting System
for Extra / Ultra / Bounty models



50 Pods - Foam Seed Starting System
for AeroGarden 7 / Extra / Ultra / Bounty models

SEEDING

TIP! Soak Grow Sponges in water until evenly moist before seeding.

Step 1 Remove Grow Deck from AeroGarden Bowl

- Remove Grow Deck from AeroGarden Bowl and store. The Grow Deck is not needed when using the Seed Starting Tray. The Grow Deck is the top, flat surface of the water Bowl.
- In the AeroGarden Harvest, the pump nozzle will also need to be removed and stored.

Step 2 Add Water

- Add cool tap water or distilled water to the bowl to the 'Fill to Here' indicator. Do not use well water or softened water which may result in non-germination and/or poor growth.

Step 3 Place Seed Starting Tray & Grow Sponges

- Place Seed Starting Tray into your AeroGarden Bowl.
- If you are using a new Seed Starting Tray, the Grow Sponges will already be in place.
- If you are refilling your tray with Replacement Grow Sponges, place them into the tray now.

Optional: Allow your Seed Starting Tray with Grow Sponges to rest in the water in Bowl for 24 hrs before seeding for best results.

Step 4 Insert Your Seeds

- Many seedlings look alike. As you plant seeds write the name of the seed into the corresponding space on the Seed Starting Tray Diagram on the back of this guide.
- Insert seeds in the opening in the Grow Sponge using fingertips or tweezers. Plant several seeds per Grow Sponge. Continue until all desired seeds have been planted.
- For larger seeds (e.g., pea, squash), cut opening 1/2" deep with scissors and insert 1-2 seeds.



- Use outer spaces in the Tray for seedlings with large, spreading leaves (eg., peppers and tomatoes) to prevent them from shading other seedlings.
- Some Seeds will always sprout faster than others, especially with different plant types. When seeding different types of plants together in the same tray.

Step 5 Feed Your Garden

Instructions for use of nutrients are printed on the nutrients package.

- For 6-Pod, 7-Pod, and 9-Pod models, add 8 mL of nutrients directly into the water Bowl at start-up, and when the 'Add Nutrients' reminder activates every 2 weeks.
- For 3-Pod models, add 4 mL of nutrients directly into the water Bowl at at start-up, and when the 'Add Nutrients' reminder activates every 2 weeks.
- Add only the amount recommended on the nutrients packaging. Do not overfeed!
- Always top off water level when adding nutrients and when the 'Add Water' reminder activates. For best results, top off the water level in your garden regularly.

Step 6 Plug in & Select Plant Type

- Plug cord into outlet, and plug light cord into hood.
- Press "Select" button to set AeroGarden to "Herbs" setting.
- If growing in an Ultra or Bounty model, press 'Quick Start' and follow on-screen instructions, then select "Seed Starting" when choosing Garden Type.
- If your AeroGarden has a 24 hr light option or customizable setting, seedlings can be benefit from using this option for the first 3-4 weeks.

Top Tips for Great Growth

- Set your Lamp Hood to the lowest position.
- In order to keep the water in your Bowl fresh, rinse and refill and add new nutrients every two weeks when the "Add Nutrients" light blinks.
- Some plants, such as salad and herbs, grow best when you allow many sprouts to grow per pod.
- Tomatoes and peppers grow best with just one plant per pod. Cut out smaller plants when they are about 1" tall, and leave just one healthy plant per pod.
- For best growth, keep water level topped off.

HARDENING OFF

Critical Step for Success!

At about 4 weeks or less your plants will be ready to transplant into an outdoor garden. If it is a Spring crop like lettuce and broccoli, you can transplant as soon as the soil can be worked in Spring. If it is a Summer crop like tomatoes or peppers, wait until the danger of a late frost has passed. Your seed kit packages should tell you the right time to plant in your area.

Before transplanting, seedlings need to be hardened off. Skipping this step will almost certainly result in some or all of your plants dying! Hardening off seedlings eases their transition from the AeroGarden to the outdoors, where they will be exposed to full sunlight, temperature variations and wind.

- Remove Bowl (with Tray and seedlings) from Base and place in a shady location outside for a few hours each day, gradually increasing to 24 hours outside. This should take about a week. Too much direct sun too soon may kill your starter seedlings.
- Bring Bowl inside if weather turns bad or temperature is below 45°F (7.2°C).
- Return Bowl to Base when you bring Bowl inside.
- If your seedlings get too large before weather will allow transplanting outdoors, transplant into small pots with high quality potting soil. Keep fully watered in a sunny space until weather permits transplanting outdoors.

TRANSPLANTING

Don't let sprouts get too big. Transplant 4-6" plants after hardening off or transplant into small pots with dirt until weather is agreeable.

- Lift Tray from Bowl. With finger or pencil, gently push up on Grow Sponge from underneath tray. Take care not to damage too many roots.
- Remove plants from Tray by holding the Grow Sponge, not the plant.



- Plant Grow Sponge in soil. (Note Seed Packet instructions for proper spacing and planting conditions.)
- Pour one or two cups water on soil.

Top Tips for Transplanting

- Your transplanted seedlings need water every day for the first two weeks, especially in dry, sunny climates.
- It is best to plant your seedlings on a cool, cloudy day.
- For larger, warmer-weather veggies (i.e., tomatoes, peppers, and zucchini), some gardeners like to transplant from the AeroGarden into small pots before transplanting into an outdoor garden.

Reusing Your Seed Starting System

Step 1 Clean Tray before reusing:

Rinse Seed Starting Tray in water to remove debris. A small scrub brush or old toothbrush is helpful for this task. Here's how sanitize your Seed Starting Tray:

- Fill a sink or 5 gallon bucket with water.
- Add ¼ cup (.06 liter) chlorine bleach per 5 gallons (3.78 liters) of water.
- Chlorine bleach is recommended for sanitizing, but 5 cups of distilled white vinegar can be used instead.
- Submerge Tray in solution for 2 minutes.
- Rinse Tray under cold running water for about 2 minutes.

Step 2 Seeding

Proceed to Step 1 on Page 2.

Grow Sponges and Liquid Nutrients are available at www.AeroGarden.com or call 1-800-476-9669