

# **Do Pre-Packaged Seeds Grow Faster Than Fresh Seeds?**



*NO PRE-PACKAGED SEEDS*

*Grow Faster Than  
Fresh Seeds?*

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It's that time of year when the seed catalogs start arriving in the mailbox. Getting new packets of seeds from a seed supplier is a real treat. Knowing that those carefully

harvested seeds will eventually grow into food or flowers is so exciting.

It's just as satisfying to sort through personally harvested [seeds](#) from your own garden. Collecting seeds right from your garden is not only environmentally responsible but can also save you money in the long run. Shiny new seed packets can get expensive, after all.

## **Pre-Packaged Seeds vs. Fresh Seeds: What's the Difference?**

Confused about what I mean between [fresh and pre-packaged seeds](#)?

Here's why they're different. When I refer to pre-packaged seeds, these are seeds that you buy from seed suppliers. They arrive in packets, and you can buy them in various quantities.

When I talk about fresh seeds, I'm talking about seeds harvested from your garden. When your cilantro plant bolts and flowers, it eventually produces seeds at the end of the season. To harvest them, you dry the pods and remove the seeds.

Hold on, though, fresh is really just a way to distinguish between the two. Once you store your garden-harvested seeds, they aren't technically fresh anymore.

Both pre-packaged and "fresh" seeds can vary in freshness. When buying seeds, always check the packaging date to make sure you haven't received a super old packet.

Really, the only difference between the two is the source.

## **Pre-Packaged Seeds vs. Fresh Seeds: Which**

## Grows Faster?

There's nothing more annoying than receiving a packet of seeds and finding out that most are duds. Unfortunately, it happens. It's also proof that buying pre-packaged seeds doesn't guarantee freshness or quality.

The plant growth rate has nothing to do with whether seeds come from your garden or a seed supplier. The same goes for germination. The rate of growth and germination has more to do with how you store seeds.

Proper storage is *everything*. It's key to keeping your seeds viable for longer. Poor storage can turn quality seeds into duds very quickly. To make sure your seeds (whether from your garden or elsewhere) stay fresh:

- Store in an airtight container.
- Don't expose them to moisture.

## Tips for Starting Seeds

When the time comes to start seeds, there are also a few things you can do to speed up germination.

- **Match seed type and temperature.** Some seeds [germinate](#) best when exposed to warm temperatures, while others like it cooler. Keeping things at the right temperature can speed up the germination process.
- **Keep soil moist.** Moisture is key for germination, but make sure not to drown those little seeds.
- **Manage airflow.** If you're starting seeds in a confined space, too much humidity can be a problem. It can promote mold growth and disease. If plants are too close together, it can also prevent adequate airflow.

Want some tips on how to save your own seeds? Here is a [handy guide](#) from Seed Savers Exchange.

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# **What Are the Different Ways to Germinate Citrus Seeds?**





*WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT WAYS*

*to Germinate  
Citrus Seeds?*

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I *always* have lemons in my fridge. The bright acidic quality of lemon juice adds a fantastic oomph to food that you just can't get with other kinds of acids. Lemon also pairs well

with pasta, chicken, and roasted veggies. I also often have limes on hand because they're perfect for brightening up Mexican and Thai dishes.

Of course, it's not always convenient to have a bag of lemons, limes, and other citrus fruits in your fridge. If you only cook for one person or two, they're likely to go bad before you can use them, and a lot of citrus fruit can be quite expensive at the supermarket.

So what's a foodie to do? Grow your very own citrus plants at home! It's easy to germinate citrus seeds right in your kitchen. They're not only delicious, but they're also [healthy](#)!

## What you need for success

Before we dive into how to germinate citrus seeds, it's important to note that most citrus fruits don't do well in cold climates. If you plan to grow citrus indoors, you'll need a spot that gets a *lot* of sun. You should also plan to water and mist your fruit tree regularly, but never ever overwater. Waterlogging the roots of a citrus tree is one of the quickest ways to kill it.

Many citrus tree varieties are excellent container plants and easy to grow inside. If it's warm enough in the summer, feel free to move your trees outside for some sun, fresh air, and rain. Opt for dwarf varieties if you're growing inside or in a small outdoor space.

## How to germinate citrus seeds

Did you know you can [germinate citrus seeds](#) from the fruit you buy at the grocery store?

To sprout those [seeds](#), remove them from the flesh and soak them overnight. Soaking the seeds helps break down the thick coating that prevents water and air from getting inside.

After soaking, it's time to plant the seeds. Pop them in some potting soil. Make sure your potting soil is moist—if it's too dry or wet, your seeds won't sprout, so you're looking for a middle ground. A general rule when planting any kind of seed is to set it to a depth that corresponds with the seed itself. Small seeds, like carrot seeds, for instance, require shallow sowing. Larger seeds, like those of citrus or [squash](#), need to be sown a little deeper.

Use plastic wrap, or a seed starting dome to cover the potting soil. This helps retain moisture. Set your potted seed somewhere sunny and warm.

Once the seed sprouts, remove the plastic. At this phase, too much moisture can create problems.

To promote continued growth, feed your lil' citrus plant every once in a while with a balanced fertilizer. Thankfully, there are quite a few citrus-specific fertilizers on the market, which makes it easy to identify the right formula for your needs.

Citrus fruit trees will take some time to bear fruit, and it largely depends on the type and variety of citrus. Once fruits appear, they also take a while to ripen. Don't pick fruits until they're ripe. Unlike tomatoes, they won't get any ripier after being picked.