

In the Virtual Garden with UAF Cooperative Extension Service: DIY Seed Tape



Materials:

- Several sheets of newspaper
- 2 tbsp. all-purpose flour
- 1 tbsp water
- Small bowl
- Small paintbrush or q-tip
- Ruler or measuring tape
- Scissors
- Your favorite small, hard to handle seeds

To make the glue: Mix flour and water together to make a thick paste. This paste will act as glue to hold the seed in place. You don't want this to be watery and thin.

To make the seed tape:

1. Measure out strips of newspaper about 1" wide and 1 foot long.
2. Mark seed spacing: Consult the packet of seeds to find out how far apart the seeds should be planted. Use a marker to mark each spot where a seed will go.
3. Add a dot of glue to each mark.
4. Pour the seeds out onto a plate, then spread them around a little to make them easy to pick up.
5. Using tweezers (or tiny fingers), pick up a seed and place it on one of the drops of glue.
6. Continue until you have placed seeds on all the glue drops.
7. Fold your strips over and label them.
8. Let dry completely. Store it in a plastic bag or container in a cool, dry place until you are ready to plant.

Planting tips: To plant, lay the seed tape on the soil surface, weighting it with a rock or stone to keep the wind from moving it. Cover with soil to the depth recommended on the seed packet. Firm the soil to make sure there is good soil-seed contact. Water with a fine nozzle to avoid washing away the soil. Keep the soil moist until seedlings appear. If starting seeds indoors, you may wish to cover the container with plastic wrap to encourage germination.

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