



# MAXFIELD'S DIY GUIDE MAINTAINING SEEDLINGS

“Some people call it ‘reading plants’ but I like to think of it as a conversation.”



## TIME REQUIRED:

APPROXIMATELY 15 - 30 MINUTES



## TOOLS REQUIRED:

SEEDLING(S), EXTRA SEEDLING CONTAINER(S), LARGER TRANSPLANTING POT(S), MAXFIELD'S POTTING SOIL, WATERING CAN OR ACCESS TO A HOSE / SINK GLOVES AND TROWEL ARE OPTIONAL.

### Check to see if your seedlings have adequate light.

If your seedlings are “leggy” (long shoots and not very many leaves)

- Rotate seedlings in windowsills a few times per week to make sure light is hitting all sides of the plant.
- Bring seedlings outside in the heat of the day for 4-6 hours to harden them off.
- Talk to your plants or blow on them. Vibrations will mimic natural wind and help strengthen the stalk.

### Check to see if your seedlings have enough water.

- Dip your finger about an inch into the soil to feel for excess moisture.
- If you think the plant needs to be watered it probably does. Trust your intuition.

### Avoid feeding your seedlings during this fragile time.

### Check to see if you seedlings need to be thinned.

If, in your seedling container(s), you see too many plants too close together, it's time for thinning.

- Loosen seedling bunch out of the tray.
- Gently caress the root ball until each seedlings is separated (take your time to avoid abusing the roots).
- Fill the bottom of the new seedling containers with a couple of inches of Maxfield's Potting Soil.
- One at a time, put the bare root seedling into the container, shaking the Potting Soil into the root structure.
- Fill in the rest of the container with potting soil making sure to leave room for excess water to pool at the top.
- Water it in thoroughly.

### Check to see if seedling is rootbound

If the root structure has developed to a point where there's no more room for it to grow and it's not warm enough to transplant outdoors, do so into a larger pot.

- Fill a larger seedling container with about 2 inches of Maxfield's Potting Soil.
- Use a smaller transplanting container to create a mold, filling the potting soil around the outside.
- Remove the smaller seedling container to make room for the seedling that's being transplanted.
- Gently massage the container off the rootbound seedling.
- Grab the rootbound plant and crack the roots by pulling it apart in four directions, creating four root “legs”.
- Place the cracked root into the mold that you've created in the middle of the larger transplanting pot.
- Add more potting soil on top and press down to the desired depth, leaving room on top for water to pool
- Water thoroughly