

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT. AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES.

**Making of seedlings
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Crop Science
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Makwassie Hills**



**Agriculture &
Rural Development**
Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



- Reasons for making seedlings
 - Even germination
 - Small area needed
 - Better care can be given
- What is needed
 - Area that is protected from harsh weather conditions
 - Good water supply
 - Good quality seed
 - Seed trays
 - Growth medium
 - Pest and disease control



- What is needed
 - Area that is protected from harsh weather conditions
 - Shade cloth covered to keep out birds and protect against severe cold or heat
 - Good water supply
 - Water needs to be of good quality (pH, EC)
 - Seed trays
 - Good quality containers that are suitable for good root development
 - Growth medium
 - Needs to be: fine, retain moisture, correct pH and be chemically inert
 - Pest and disease control
 - Spray of pesticides that are registered for crop



- Process of making seedlings
 - Sterilize seed trays
 - Fill tray with growth medium, compact and refill
 - Press holes for seed and sow seed into tray
 - Cover seed with growth medium
 - Irrigate till water drains from bottom of trays.
 - Place trays in protected area for growth



- Care of seedlings

- Irrigate seedlings 4 times per day for a week then 3 times per day
- Thin seedlings to one per plug by cutting extra plants
- Feed seedlings with soluble fertiliser every three weeks
- Harden plants prior transplanting by reducing irrigation for 2 days
- Use spike to press seedlings from tray before removing seedlings from trays
- Ensure good contact with soil and roots when transplanting



- Thank you



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