



SOIL BLOCKING FOR SEED STARTING

Mud pies with a purpose

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WHAT IS SOIL BLOCKING?

- Using molds to form wet soil into blocks that hold their shape
- Seeds are planted directly into the blocks
- No containers are used



Why would I want to make soil blocks?

- It's fun
- No need for pots
- Save \$\$
- Healthier roots
- Less transplant shock
- Transplant difficult seedlings



Is this just for vegetables?

- No! It's for any seed you want to start!



HOW DO I
GET
STARTED?



Make your soil mix

**1/3
SUBSTRATE**

**1/3
DRAINAGE**

**1/3
NUTRIENTS**

Soil Mix Options

SUBSTRATE
PEAT, COIR

DRAINAGE
PERLITE,
VERMICULITE,
RICE HULLS

NUTRIENTS
FERTILIZER,
ORGANIC
AMENDMENTS

- 
- **Add water and mix thoroughly** ●

**How much
water?**

**Enough that when you
squeeze a handful,
water drips out**


Soil Blocks or Molds

- Square style with plunger
- Round style with plunger
- DIY tubing



A decorative illustration of green foliage, including a fern frond and a broad leaf, is positioned in the top left corner of the slide.

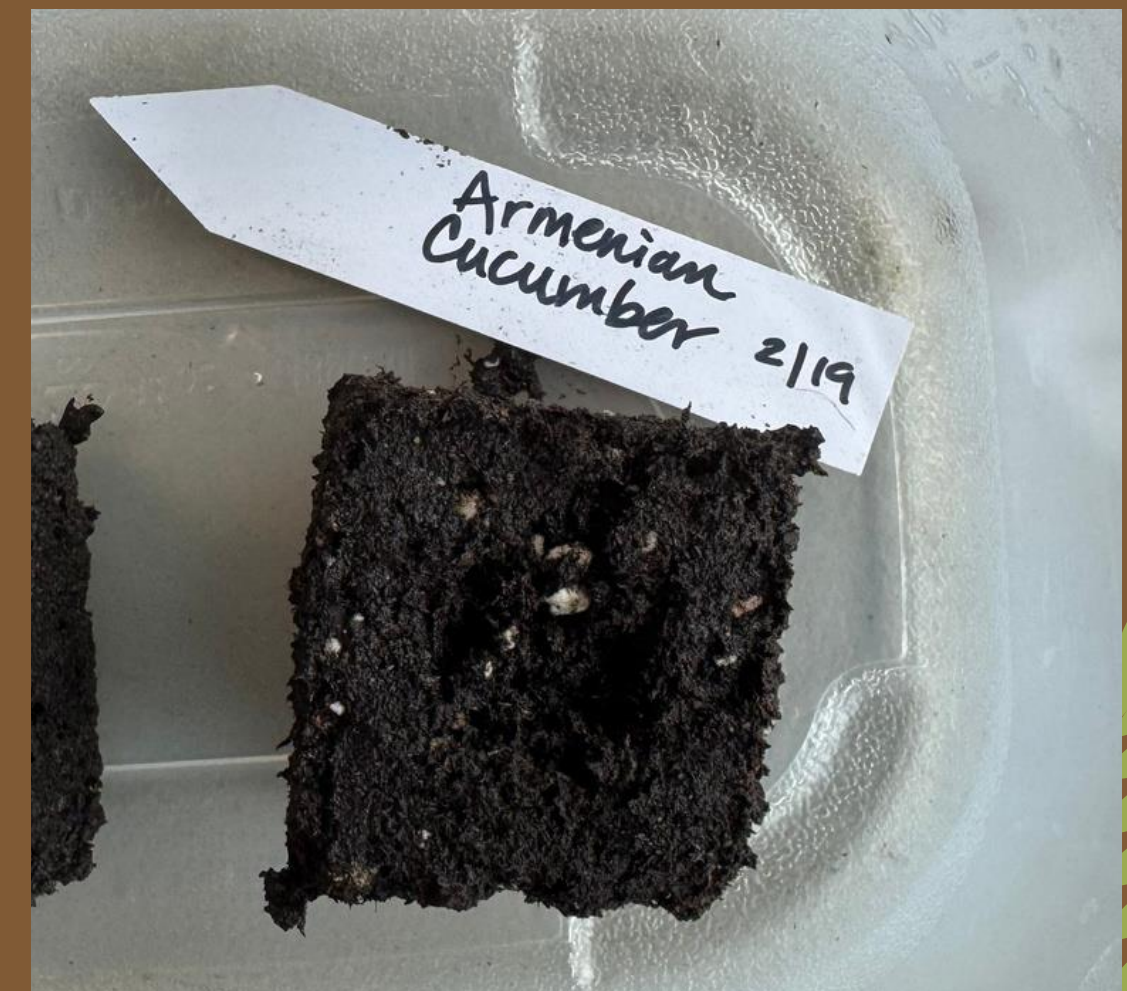
Making soil blocks

A decorative illustration of green foliage, including a broad leaf and a fern frond, is positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide.

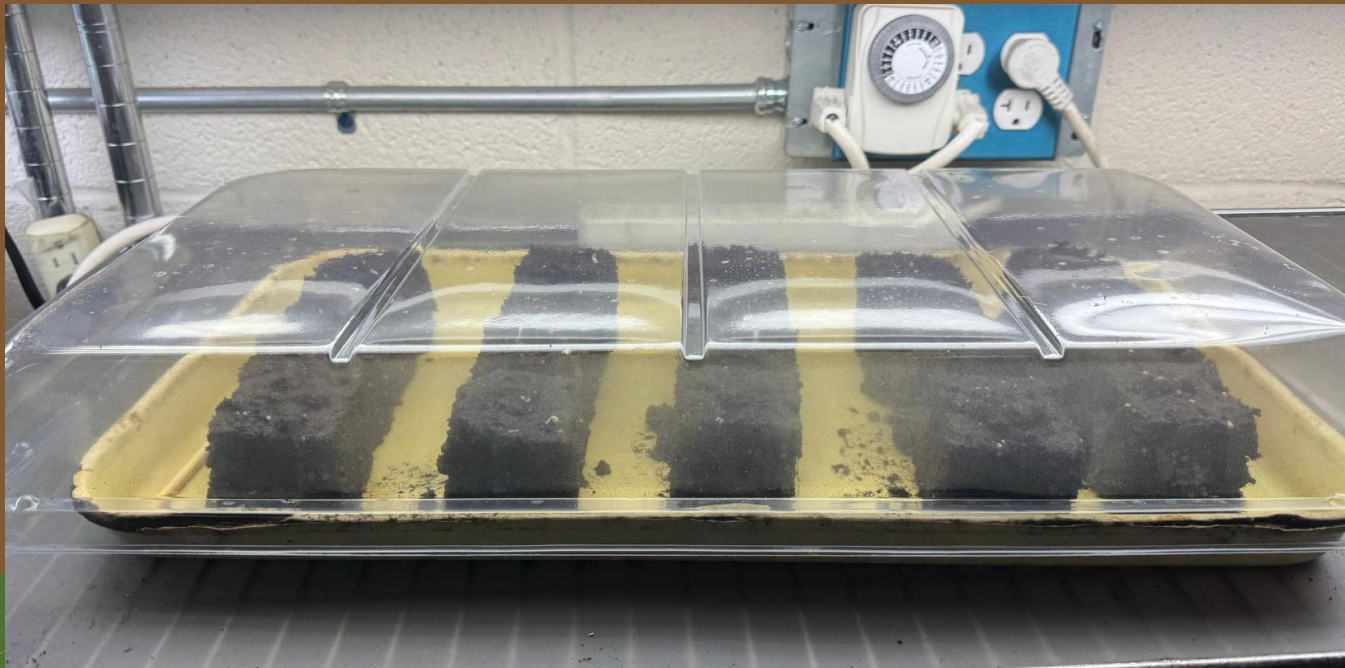
**PRESS AND PACK
SOIL MIX INTO
MOLD**

**CAREFULLY PLUNGE
BLOCK ONTO RIMMED
TRAY**

Planting soil blocks



Pre-germination care



Watering soil blocks after seedlings sprout

**WATER FROM
THE BOTTOM**





Transplanting Soil Blocks


**INTO LARGER
BLOCK, POT OR
GROUND**

What are some downsides to soil blocks?

- It can be a mess
- May take some experimenting
- Watering can be a bit more challenging
- Transplanting can be a bit more challenging



Keys to success

- Use at least some peat
 - Fine texture
 - More water than normal
 - Mix day before planting to allow good hydration
- 

GOT
ANY
QUESTIONS
?





COME UP

and check it out!

FOR MORE
INFORMATION

[Oklahoma State
University Video](#)

[PENN STATE
EXTENSION SOIL
BLOCKING](#)



ALL YOU NEED
IS PLANTS

