

USING 'LIFE' ON SEEDLINGS

Successful seed germination requires moisture and warmth, but light is not needed. Once seeds germinate, light is a requirement. Wrapping seeds in a warm, damp paper towel may speed up germination but not necessary.

Seeds can be started in a variety of growing mediums, including rock wool, peat moss cubes or loose soil mixes. If using a potting mix, be sure to use a seed starting or untreated blend to avoid any possibly salt toxicity on young plants. Also, be sure to avoid using mixes that have large, chunky bark particles. This can cause the medium to dry too quickly and harm new root development.

Moisten growing medium of choice with filtered or distilled water, place seeds in medium, be sure to cover seeds slightly, and keep in a warm and dark area. Ideal temperatures are 75-85 degrees, with 75-85% relative humidity. Ideal CO₂ levels are ambient levels; no supplemental CO₂ is required at this stage. If levels are higher, seedling development may suffer. Keep a very close watch on seeds, and provide low levels of light once germination occurs. As plant matures, increase the light intensity gradually. Start with only ambient light, and work up to T5, LED or MH once a few inches of growth has occurred.

Once roots develop and the first set of true leaves has formed, a light nutrient feeding with LIFE Cloning Solution can be used. Continue to use distilled or reverse osmosis water for seedlings for best results. Tap water with a pH over 7.0 or an EC over 0.4 (200 ppm) can be problematic for nutrient availability and root development. For the first few waterings, use LIFE Cloning Solution up to 200 ppm to saturate medium. As more leaves develop, increase rate up to 400 ppm as needed. Once seedlings are under stronger light, switch to the Grow A/B nutrient solution to provide more nitrogen as the plant matures.

IMAGES

The images below illustrate how conditions affect Seedlings. It is best to use a lighter soil with seedlings and monitor the CO₂, humidity and temperatures. Once the conditions of the seedlings were adjusted, root formation took about half the time and resulted in greater overall health. Even with a quality propagation product like LIFE, improper conditions can have an adverse effect.



BEFORE: Soil was compacted, water quality was poor and showing environmental issues including too much CO₂



AFTER (2 weeks later): Different soil (lighter and airier), adjusted CO₂ down, cleaned up water and environment controlled