

Seed Starting with Swift Blocker (mini 75 or mini 27)



Blocking Mix Recipe

For 20 cups (makes approx. 300 mini 75 blocks or 80 mini 27 blocks)

16 cups sifted peat moss or coco fiber

4 cups sifted compost

1/2 cup DIY Blocking Nutrient Mix (or a mix of ¼ C powdered Greensand + ¼ C powdered Rock Phosphate)

Mix these ingredients dry

Mixing

Mix approx. 3 parts blocking mix to 1 part water. We find a good measure to start with is approx. 20 cups blocking mix and approx. 6-7 cups of water. Wetting and mixing the blocking mix is much like mixing concrete; the consistency desired is that of wet oatmeal. We use an old-fashioned potato masher to mix. Mix leftovers can be left to dry out, then you can re-wet and use later. Do not cover and store wet mix.

All Things Swift Blocking



Scan code
with your
phone's
camera

<https://thegardenersworkshop.com/swift-blocker/>

Blocking

- Place the blocker on the tray you'll be using for your soil blocks. Lift the top piece off and set aside. To form the blocks, carefully scoop moist blocking mix onto the blocker tool and firmly press the soil down into the chambers. Use the metal scraper tool to scrape any excess soil across the top of the blocks and scoop it off.
- At this point, if your seed needs light to germinate you can surface sow those seeds on the blocks.
- Place the top piece of the blocker tool on top of the blocks, and holding at both ends, press down to firm the blocks once more. Then, gently pull up on the bottom of the blocker tool until it touches the top piece and the soil blocks are released.
- If you experience trouble, do not despair; it takes a little practice. The problem most often encountered is too little or too much water, experiment a little to find what works best. The quality of your blocks is essential to how well they hold up for the next weeks of growing.

Sowing Seeds

Each block produced has a depression to receive a seed. Sow one seed per block according to the seed instructions. Those that need light to germinate are firmly placed on the surface and those that need darkness are pushed further down into the block.

Add Heat and Light to Maximize Seed Germination and Growth

You will experience a quicker and higher rate of germination when bottom heat is used during the germination stage. Our propagation electric heat mat keeps the soil evenly warm, improves your germination success, and helps to prevent soil-borne diseases.

Once 50% of the seeds have germinated, add light. To produce healthy, bushy, and stocky seedlings give them 16-18 hours of intense light daily. Tall leggy seedlings are a result of low light conditions. Our tabletop grow light takes only 26" of countertop space and can support up to 300 mini 75 blocks or 108 mini 27 blocks.

Caring for Your Blocks

- Water blocks each morning, do not allow them to sit in water.
- Blocks should dry out between daily waterings.
- Water from the side of the tray; do not water directly on blocks.
- After the seeds germinate, feed with a liquid organic fertilizer according to directions.
- Misting is only necessary for those seedlings that have a hard shell seed that may need moisture to soften for it to be shed. (Zinnias, Sunflowers, etc.)

Planting the Blocks

Plants produced by soil blocking can be planted out sooner than other methods. Young plants adapt more readily and don't suffer from root-bounding or other consequences. When seedlings are 3"-5" tall, move outside to acclimate to the environment for 7-14 days before planting in the garden.