Make a seed germination tray

Seed to sapling

What you'll need

Tools

- Wood saw
- Screw driver
- Wire cutters
- Hammer
- Appropriate cutting surface
- Pencil
- Tape measure
- Safety gloves
- Brad point drill bit above 4mm
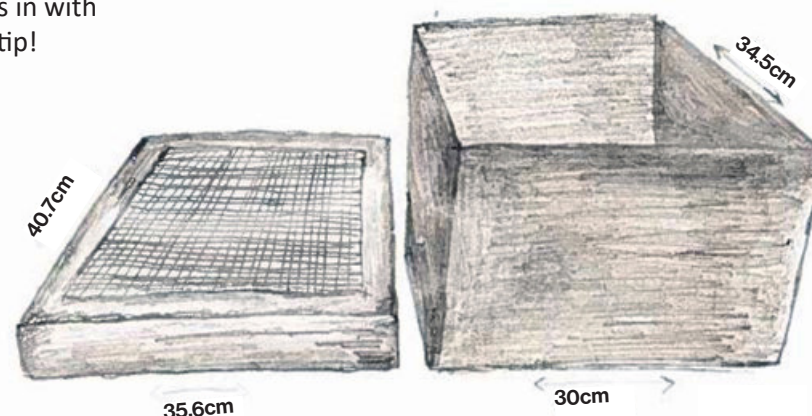- Electric drill

Materials

What materials you will need:

- 22mm x 150mm tantalised timber.
  Lengths of: (x 4) 30cm, (x2) 34.5cm
- 25mm x 50mm batten timber.
  Lengths of: (x2) 40.7cm, (x2) 35.6cm, (x2) 19cm
- Handful of 3.0 x 20mm nails/tacks or staple gun
- Handful of 40 x 2.65 mm round nails
- Handful of 3.5 x 35mm screws.
- Rodent proof mesh wire – cut into:
  1 piece 40 x 40cm square.

Use this guide alongside our **How to grow a tree from seed** guides to learn how to make a seed germination tray for sowing and growing your tree seeds. Once your seeds have germinated the young trees will need nurturing - watering, weeding and feeding - so they grow healthy and strong.

Step 1: Construct the box

- Set up a level and stable area for cutting and have your tools and materials close to hand.
- Start by marking out lengths of timber with a pencil and tape measure ready for cutting (see 'Materials' for measurements).
- Cut each piece of timber appropriately with the wood saw.
- Next start to construct the box using screws and a screw driver - you may need someone to hold the wood in place as it can be fiddly.
- First screw the outer edges together to create a frame ensuring you are using the correct lengths (longest pieces of wood for the sides, short pieces inside at the ends and two short pieces fit inside for the base)
- Next secure the base panels in with nails - take note of our top tip!
- Once you have completed the box, check the security of the wood and add extra nails/tacks if needed.

Top tip!

Blunt the nails on a hard surface to avoid splitting the wood.

34.5cm

40.7cm

35.6cm

30cm

Step 2: Make the lid

- First, cut a piece of wire to the measurements shown on page 1.

- Lay the piece of wire out flat. Use the 3.0 x 20mm sized tacks to nail the edge of the wire to the widest side of one 35.6cm wooden batten.

- Next, mould the wire to the top of the box. This will make the next step a lot easier.

- Follow by nailing the remaining 35.6cm batten to the opposite side of the wire.

- Finish the lid of the box by securing the remaining two 40.7cm battens to create a square.

- Check fitting and adjust if needed. Double check there's enough nails/tacks to secure the wire in place, so no animals can get in through the sides.

Top tip!

Wear gloves to cut the wire - it's very sharp!

Step 3: Add drainage holes & feet

- Once the box is complete the final thing to do is to add a few drainage holes and some feet.

- Use the 19cm battens evenly spaced across the two base planks on the bottom of the box. Screw them in place with one at each end of the batten. This will lift the box off the ground to help drainage.

- Finally, secure a brad point drill bit into an electric drill and drill 6-12 holes along the base of the box. Be sure to turn the box over and go through the holes again – to clear/remove any wood splinters.

Step 4: Ready to sow!

- Half fill the tray with a mixture of 50/50 compost and sharp sand.

- Sow seed accordingly.

- Please see our **How to grow a tree from seed** guide for additional information.

Seed to sapling

The Seed to Sapling project, run by Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, helps to ensure the right trees are available to plant in the Yorkshire Dales by creating community nurseries where native saplings are grown from local provenance seed.

The project supports local communities to set up their own micro nurseries, as well as providing opportunities for volunteers to get involved and take practical action for nature.

We're very grateful to the many partners who have funded this project.

Find out more at www.ydmt.org/seed2sapling

YORKSHIRE DALES
MILLENNIUM TRUST