

MAGIC OF JIFFY-7'S

Jiffy-7's are made from sphagnum peat moss - a high quality medium for starting seed. They are compressed into pellet form and encased with a paper thin netting. Adding water causes the pellet to expand up to seven times its original size - forming not only the pot - but the nutrient-enriched growing medium as well. And because roots can easily penetrate the pot wall, you can plant the pot and all right in the garden.

Jiffy-7's are ideal for the following: 1) starting the flower and vegetable varieties you want directly from seed. 2) rooting and growing cuttings from your favorite plants. 3) transplanting seedlings from a seed flat.

Starting from seed in Jiffy-7's:

Place Jiffy-7's in tray that holds water, gradually add warm water to tray, drain tray when pellets reach full expansion, about 3 cm (1 1/2 in) and dark brown in color. Make a hole at the top of each pellet with a pencil. Put 2 or 3 large seeds in hole and cover with peat, smaller seed should just be pressed into the surface. Cover tray with loose plastic with air holes poked in it, this will provide the greenhouse effect if no lid is available. Keep pellets at room temperature for proper germination 21 - 22 F (70 - 75 F). Once seeds sprout, remove plastic covering and provide plants with lots of light. If using artificial light make sure light is directly above plants and within 5 cm (2 in) of tops of plants. Otherwise seedlings will get leggy. Thin out the weaker seedlings. Water pellets when they become lighter brown, keep moist not soaked! Fertilize about 3 to 4 weeks after sprouting with your favorite fertilizer. Once roots grow through pot walls, expose plants to cooler outdoors about 4 to 6 days prior to transplanting out. Increase the exposure several hours each day, this will help to toughen or harden up the plants and will prepare them for transplanting. When you plant out place the pot and all below the surface and cover with at least 1 cm (1/2 in) of soil. (This prevents "wicking" - when the tops are not buried fully, the top acts as a wick and will draw the moisture from the roots below).

Rooting and growing cuttings:

Treat cuttings and roots the same as above but with these exceptions. Clip parent plant stem just above the leaf node (where leaf forms on stem) so parent plant will keep its good form. Trim the cutting stem just below the leaf node. Carefully peel away bottom sets of leaves, leaving 2 to 3 leaves intact for optimum results. Cutting should measure 6 to 8 cm (3 to 4 in) in length. If rooting a leaf cutting from plants like African Violets or Gloxinias, trim stem close to base. Make a hole in the expanded pellet just large enough to insert cutting. Insert stem into hole and move peat around to hold in place, insert leaf cuttings at slight angle. Follow instructions for greenhouse effect being sure plastic covering or lid does not touch cutting. Remove plastic after one week.

Transplanting seedlings from seed flat:

Carefully dig out and separate seedling being careful not to disturb the roots. Make a hole in the expanded Jiffy pellet large enough to hold seedlings. Plant seedlings at same depth as it was in the flat. Press soil medium firmly around the roots and stem being careful not to damage stem. Place seedlings in a sunny location and water when Jiffy-7's turn light brown.

Jiffy-7's Facts:

- Essentially sterile and free from weeds and fungus.
- Peat moss is enriched with plant nutrients - enough for up to 3 weeks growth.
- Plants develop a well-branched vigorous root system as a result of natural air pruning.
- They keep the root mass and growing medium intact, even if tipped or dropped.

Common Problems:

- Should expanded pellet develop any type of mold, do not worry. This harmless mold results from spores in the air due to over-watering and/or poor ventilation. Cut-back on watering and provide better or more air circulation.
- Water expanded pellets thoroughly but never allow water to sit in tray - roots need air as well as water.

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