

Lesson 6: Germination of Rose Seed



Texas A&M University Rose Breeding and Genetics Program
Lesson Series in Rose Hybridization

Objectives

- **Identify proper soil-less medium for rose seed germination**
- **Identify proper planting depth of seeds**
- **Identify time period of rose seed germination**

Crack open the fridge!

It has been 4 long months!

You've been waiting.

You may have even peeked in those containers. And that's perfectly fine.

Now, it's time for the containers of seeds to come out of the cold!



Preparation for Germination

Don't be alarmed if you see germinating seedlings when you open your container.

They were eager.

Try to save them but don't be shocked or disappointed if they don't survive.



Seedlings that germinated during stratification period.

Preparation for Germination

Materials Required

1. Soil-less Medium
2. Seedling flat
3. Labels
4. A warm, sunny or fluorescently-lit environment



Preparation for Germination

1. Soil-less Potting Mix

- A good ratio would be 50% peat:50% perlite (the same thing you used for stratification)

2. Seedling Flat

- Anything with holes for drainage will do
- Well, it needs to hold soil at least an inch deep

3. Labels

- Be sure to label your flat with the cross it contains

Preparation for Germination

4. The warm and “sunny” environment

- If it's below 65° F outside, you will need to keep the seedlings indoors
- If you keep them indoors, they will need a light source
- A bench with a fluorescent tube is an excellent choice

Indoor lighting for seed growth

Photo from Worm's Way



Preparation for Germination

1. Fill your seedling flat with potting medium
2. Moisten with water
3. Plant your seeds approximately one inch apart at a depth of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch
4. Cover with potting medium
5. Place in warm, lighted environment
6. Wait on pins and needles

After the seedlings begin germinating, begin fertilizing them weekly with a 20-20-20 water-soluble fertilizer.

If any of your seedlings germinated during the stratification period...

The same process applies, BUT...

Handle your seedlings gently when planting

Handle them by their cotyledons (1st leaves)

The cotyledons should remain above the soil level

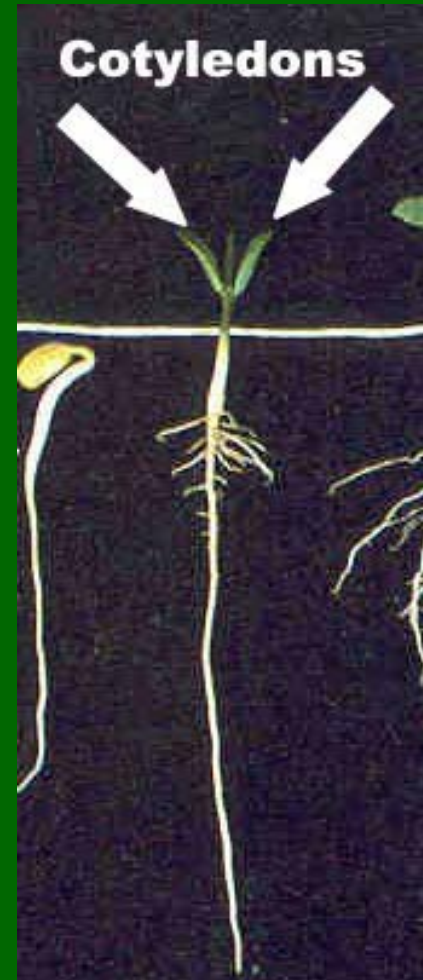


Photo from Univ. of Illinois

And now to wait...

Sad to say, but you never know when the seeds will start germinating.

Don't give up on them.

You may see seedlings within 2 weeks or up to many months.

It's a patience thing.

But there is good news...



The Good News

Within 6 weeks from germination, an everblooming variety will produce its first bloom!

And, selections can begin even before a flower appears...

More on that in the final lesson.



6 weeks following seed germination