

HOMEGROW



TOBACCO GROWING KIT

This kit contains all the ingredients to raise about 100 tobacco plants. The seed is selected from Virginia/Burley plants for maximum leaf growth.

Follow our instructions carefully and you will have started an enjoyable and profitable hobby.

Your first crop, from sowing to dry leaf will take 15-20 weeks.

This kit contains:

- 1 bag of sterilised seed raising mix
- 1 sachet of sand treated with fungicide
- 1 phial tobacco seed (sufficient for approx 100 plants)
- Instruction sheet and growth diagram

**SMOKING CAUSES FATAL DISEASES, CHRONIC
ILLNESS AND PREMATURE DEATH. YOU CAN QUIT
SMOKING. CALL QUITLINE 0800 778 778.**

1. PREPARING PLANTER AND SOWING SEED

Use the plastic container in which the kit is packed, for the planter. Pour in the potting mix and firm down evenly by hand.

Mix half the seed with half the sand and sprinkle and smooth this evenly over surface of the seed raising mix.

Spray water gently over the mix, sufficient to dampen without disturbing the surface.

Then put the planter in a warm place away from direct sunlight. Water daily and your seedlings should appear within 9-14 days.

Your seedlings can now be moved in their planter, to a sheltered sunny position.

Note: Tobacco seeds are very tiny and so are the seedlings when they first appear. This may lead you to think it a poor germination, but do not be tempted to resow in the same planter, as the seedlings will grow quite rapidly.

2. SEEDLINGS

When your seedlings are ½" high, transplant into seedling boxes, punnets or peat pots. Continue watering and care until they are 4" high when they can be transplanted into their permanent outdoor plot, or into large indoor pots. Refer to growth diagram.

By retaining half the seed at the first sowing, you can sow the rest later at your convenience, thus extending the harvesting period. The sand supplied is treated with fungicide to guard against possible fungal contamination. Tobacco plants are usually quite resistant to most diseases and pests and insecticide spraying should be avoided altogether.



3. TRANSPLANTING AND CARE OF PLANTS

Select your plot in a warm, sheltered position with light, free draining soil. Transplant your seedlings from their boxes to their permanent plot when they are 4" high and all risk of frost has passed.

Side dress each row with ordinary N-P-K garden fertiliser at planting. Repeat this 3 weeks after planting, but apply no more fertiliser after this. Plant no closer than 18" apart. Ensure adequate watering. Pinch out all side lateral growth as it appears, as you do with tomatoes.

It is most important that you remove the flowering heads as they appear, this will greatly increase leaf yield and quality.

Note: Tobacco plants prefer ground planting. They do not normally flourish in tubs or pots.

4. HARVESTING AND DRYING

The lower leaves mature first, and this is apparent when a colour change occurs, from the original dark green, to a lighter yellow/green shade. Pick only these leaves as they ripen, ready for drying.

Drying

Commercially grown tobacco is invariably dried in a kiln under strictly controlled conditions of temperature and humidity. Good results can be obtained by the home grower however, by air drying. This requires care and patience, but experience gained over time will refine your technique. The more ambitious grower may feel justified in making a simple drying kiln, using a fan heater or light bulb as a heat source, to speed the job, but for now we recommend air drying.

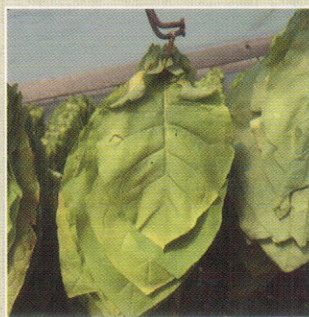
Air Drying

Tie pairs of leaves together at the thick end of their stalks and hang them over a line, in a well ventilated, dry place, such as rafters of your garage. Eventually the leaf will dry to a uniform yellow/brown colour and can be used at this stage without further processing, merely shredding to the texture you require.

When the moisture content has stabilised your tobacco should keep without any problems.

Curing, Flavouring and Aging

Now you are growing tobacco, the next step is curing, flavouring and aging. Full details and all ingredients are included in the **HOME GROW** Tobacco Curing Kit.



GROWTH STAGES IN TOBACCO

