

Ginkgo seed germination

Mix peat moss and water until the peat moss is moist but not dripping wet. Peat moss holds a lot of water, but test the moisture content by making a ball of peat moss in your fist. If the ball holds its form the moss is moist enough. If the peat moss is dripping water add a little more peat moss.

Put two hand fulls of moist peat moss in a zip lock bag. Put in up to 5 Ginkgo seeds and then zip up the bag. The peat moss will allow the seeds to germinate but the acidity of the peat moss will ward off any dampening off fungus that may threaten your seedlings. Put the baggies somewhere you can check on them. I've placed mine on a bookshelf at room temperature with good results.

The first seeds should start to sprout in 2-3 weeks. Other seeds will sprout over the coming weeks. After the seeds have sprouted and produced a few leaves and roots remove them from the zip lock bag. Don't leave the seedlings in the bag too long after they have produced some top growth or else they will have more trouble adjusting to life outside of the zip lock bag and probably die back.

Pot up the seedlings in 4 inch pots. Ensure that they are watered especially at first. You may wish to mist them for about a week after they have been transplanted as it is a difficult period of adjustment for the seedlings.

After a few months in the 4 inch pots the seedlings may be planted outside. You can successfully start seeds at any time of the year and transplanting can take place during any frost free month of the year; transplanting during the height of summer is not recommended. The seedlings won't survive inside a house for much more than a year. For seeds gathered this fall, it is best to wait until after January before growing them as the embryo needs that time to mature.