



HomeLeisure Reko Seedling Trays, about \$3 for eight. homeleisure.com.au

You'll save money if you grow seeds rather than seedlings.

Sow the seeds

There is a greater variety of vegies to choose from if you grow them from seed. It's also less expensive, as a packet of 50-100 seeds costs the same as a punnet of 6-12 seedlings.

If you seal and store the packet, you'll have about three years' supply.

Certain vegetables grow better from seed, planted directly where they are to grow, rather than from transplanted seedlings.

Direct-sow broad beans, radish, silverbeet, peas, Asian greens, spinach, parsnip, beetroot and carrot.

You can buy propagating sets to get your seeds off to a good start,

but an even cheaper alternative is to re-use seedling punnets as a DIY propagator or mini greenhouse.

Place plastic wrap or a clear plastic freezer bag over the seed container, then seal it. Remove the plastic when the seeds have germinated.

Cardboard egg cartons make great punnets for large seeds. Fill them with seed-raising mix and plant a seed in each section. When they've germinated, cut out the individual sections and plant them in the ground.

The cardboard will soon break down in the soil and your seedlings won't suffer transplant shock.

Seed tapes, which are strips of soft paper containing evenly spaced seeds, are easy to use and effective. You simply lay the tape in the ground, cover it with soil, then water it. **TIP** Water transplanted seedlings with a seaweed concentrate to help prevent transplant shock.



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