

# Soil Blocking: Sustainable Seedling Production

## Description

Soil blocking is a seed starting technique that forms blocks of soil, reducing plastic waste and increasing plant health. We will explore the importance of producing your own seedlings, how to source your soils and amendments, and learn how to grow plants in a complete waste free environment!

## Key Learning Outcomes

- Climate change
- Plant growth
- Vermicomposting
- Air trimming
- Local vs global



## Time Frame

1 period

## Materials

- Soil blockers (provided)
- Trays
- Seeds
- Soil mix

## Related Workshops

- Soil Blocking: Plant Tropism
- Vermicomposting
- Compost Tea



# Soil Blocking: Sustainable Seedling Production

## Introduction

- Soil blocking basics and benefits
- Root growth, root balling, bottom watering
- How to source materials; renewable vs sustainable
- Benefits of soil blocking



## Activity

1. Students will break into groups and work together making a soil block mixture with the proper proportions and amendments.
2. Working together each student will make a full tray of 2 x 2 soil blocks making sure to keep the soil mix at the proper moisture and that they are getting even and similar sized blocks.
3. Students will then take the appropriate seeds based on a predetermined planting schedule and will plant one to two seeds in each block.
4. After making sure that each tray is properly labeled with date and plant name, find a warm space for seed germination.



## Follow Up

- Once seeds have germinated make sure to move them to a sunny spot
- Water every other day, making sure to water from below by slightly filling the trays with water.
- Observe difference between first and true leaves
- Conduct germination percentage tests on old seed.