

How to make paper pots and sow seeds in them

Equipment

- Scissors
- Newspaper
- Paper pot roller (wooden), toilet or paper towel roll, plastic pot or glass bottle
- Potting mix
- Seeds or small seedlings
- Pen or texta

Method

1. Cut your newspaper to size. When using toilet rolls or a paper pot roller cut the newspaper into thirds – see diagram below.
Note: you will need to change how wide you cut the newspaper depending on what you are rolling with. For larger items to use as a mould fold the newspaper instead of cutting.

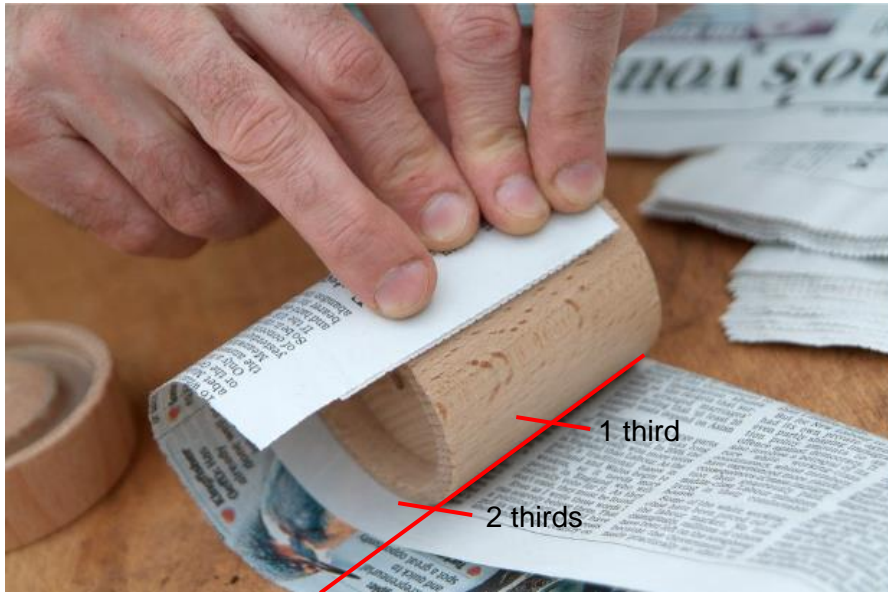
Cut lines:



Fold suggestion:



- Line up your paper pot roller with the edge of the newspaper and put it 2/3 down the paper. Start rolling the paper tightly around the mould base. You should roll the paper around to make between 4 and 6 layers per pot.



- Once rolled, start folding the paper over the base of your mould so there is no gap for compost or potting mix to fall through.



4. Use a crimping block that comes with the wooden paper pot roller or a hard surface and press the mould base firmly onto it.



5. Gently slide the paper pot off the mould base.
Note: if you have made a bigger pot paper clip the end of the rolled newspaper to keep it together – see circled below.



6. Fill the paper pot with potting mix and/ or compost. Make sure $\frac{3}{4}$ of the pot is full.



7. Place 2 to 4 seeds in the pot and cover them with soil. Cover the seeds with a soil depth equivalent to the width of the seed. A seed like the one shown below only needs to be just covered, but a sunflower seed needs to be covered with about 1cm of soil.



8. Cluster your sowed seed pots in a tray with no holes. Lightly water them with a watering can or spray bottle first. Once a seedling sprout water from the bottom by filling the tray with a little bit of water.



9. When your seedling has grown and is getting too big for the pot it is time to plant it in the ground. Make sure to dig a hole deep enough for all the newspaper to fit, if not tear some of the newspaper off the top. Water the plant really well to make sure the pot breaks down fast enough to allow roots to break through.

Tips

- Wrapping the newspaper tight helps hold the pot together once you have soil and seeds in it and have watered it.
- Cluster a reasonable amount of paper pots together to help reduce evaporation.
- Water the seeds and seedlings from the bottom; put pots in a tray and fill tray with a couple centimetres of water. This helps with integrity of your pot and can prevent mould growth.
- If your newspaper is growing mould empty any extra water out of tray if not soaked up within 30 minutes or spread pots apart from each other to allow for airflow.
- Most importantly – if it doesn't work at any stage try again.