

How to germinate Crab Apple seeds – From: [homeguides.sfgate.com](http://homeguides.sfgate.com) [with some editing]

To obtain seeds, collect ripe fruit from a crab apple tree. Cut the fruit open with a knife and remove the seeds. Rinse the seeds with water to remove sugar and fruit flesh, and allow them to dry on a paper towel for at least twenty-four hours. At this stage, check to see if the seeds float or sink in water. Discard any that are still floating – they will not germinate.

To break dormancy, crab apple seeds require cold stratification. This process, which exposes the seeds to cold temperatures, mimics nature's winter conditions. Label a resealable, plastic sandwich bag with the date and seed information. Fill one-third of the bag with moist peat and add the seeds. Seal the bag and lightly shake it to mix the seeds with the medium. Place the bag in the refrigerator for up to a hundred and twenty days. Check the bag several times a week and spray the peat with water if needed, to keep it consistently moist.

A six-inch diameter pot [or seed tray] with drainage holes is sufficient for growing the crab apple seeds. Fill the pot up to three quarters of an inch from the top with moist seed-starting mix and tamp it down so it's firm in the container. After evenly spreading the seeds on the soil surface, cover them with a half-inch layer of seed-starting mix. Lightly tamp down the soil and moisten it with a water-filled spray bottle. To promote soil moisture retention, stretch plastic wrap over the pot and periodically spray the soil with water, when needed.

After germination sets in, remove the plastic wrap and place the pot near a sunny window so the seedlings can grow. When they're large enough to handle, transplant them to individual containers, or outdoors after the last frost date in your area. Outside, the crab apple seedlings require an area that has well-drained soil with a pH between 5.0 and 6.5 [fairly acidic] and about eight to twelve hours of direct sunlight exposure.

How to germinate Japanese Maple seeds – From: [homeguides.sfgate.com](http://homeguides.sfgate.com) [with some editing]

Harvest Japanese maple seeds when they turn brown on the tree. This usually happens in the autumn. Remove the papery wing attached to the seed, then store the seed in a dry paper bag at room temperature over the winter. Remove the seeds from the bag about a hundred days before your planting date. The ideal planting time [in the open] is in early spring after your area's last frost date. Put the seeds in a heat-proof container and pour hot water over them. The water temperature should be no higher than 110° F/42° C [hand-hot]. Allow the maple seeds to soak for forty-eight hours. Discard any still floating – they will not germinate.

Drain the water and place the seeds in a plastic bag filled with potting soil, sand or peat. Moisten the mixture with a small amount of water. Poke a few small holes in the bag to allow for air circulation. [Not sure about that bit. Or check frequently.] Put the bag of seeds in the refrigerator for approximately a hundred days. Check frequently for sprouting – prick out any that sprout.

Fill four-inch pots [or seed tray] with [heat-sterilised] potting mix and sow the seeds on the surface of the soil. Cover seeds with three-eighths inch of soil. Water the seeds until the soil feels moist. Let the soil dry out before watering again to prevent rotting. Watch for seedling emergence within one to two weeks. When seedlings emerge, provide light shade to prevent burning.

How to germinate Trident Maple seeds – From: [bonsaistudygroup.com](http://bonsaistudygroup.com) [with some editing]

Collect the seeds when they turn brown, or use bought seeds. Soak the seeds over night in a pan. If the seeds float then they are not good and should be discarded, but if they sink they are still viable. Remove from the pot of water, drain and place on a kitchen paper towel. Make sure the seeds and towel are moist at all times but not soaking wet. It would be good if you can treat them with a fungicide before you put them onto the paper towel. Next fold the paper towel over the seeds in a manner that makes it small enough to put into a sandwich sized baggy. Tie the top off to keep all the moisture in and put them into the refrigerator. After a month or a little longer, start checking them every week to see if they are sprouting. In about two months, they should have started sprouting. Look at the very end of the seed farthest from the wing and you may see a little white dot. Under close examination you can see that the seed has actually split open.

Fill a seed tray up to about a half inch from the top with a light bonsai soil, make a row in the soil with your finger and plant the seeds about twice their thickness under the soil. Water and keep moist, but not soaking wet. When the weather prevents you can put them out side in a shaded location; dappled light would be ideal. Keep track of the weather and if you are going to have any freezing temperatures bring them into a protected area.

How to germinate Cockspur Hawthorn seeds (*Crataegus crus-galli*)

Seed is best sown as soon as it is ripe in the autumn [October] in a cold frame. Some of the seed will germinate in the spring, though most will probably take another year. Stored seed can be very slow and erratic to germinate. It should be warm stratified for three months at 15° C and then cold stratified for another three months at 4° C. It may still take another eighteen months to germinate. Scarifying the seed before stratifying it might reduce this time. Fermenting the seed for a few days in its own pulp may also speed up the germination process.

Another possibility is to harvest the seed ‘green’ (as soon as the embryo has fully developed but before the seed coat hardens) and sow it immediately in a cold frame. If timed well, it can germinate in the spring. If you are only growing small quantities of plants, it is best to pot up the seedlings as soon as they are large enough to handle and grow them on in individual pots for their first year, planting them out in late spring into nursery beds or their final positions. When growing larger quantities, it might be best to sow them directly outdoors in a seedbed, but with protection from mice and other seed-eating creatures. Grow them on in the seedbed until large enough to plant out, but undercut the roots if they are to be left undisturbed for more than two years.

How to germinate Japanese Black Pine seeds – from Jonas Dupuich, August 17, 2016

Collect seeds from dried cones when they turn brown in September or October, or use bought seeds. Place them in a cool, dark place until spring when it’s time to sow them. The next step in February or March is to soak the seeds in water for twenty-four hours. The idea is to “wake the seeds up” and cull any remaining duds from the bunch. Some seeds will sink immediately – others will sink over the next twenty-four hours. If any seeds are still floating after a day, they are likely sterile.

Place the seeds in a plastic bag with a moist paper towel or some shredded sphagnum moss to preserve humidity. Leave black pine seeds in the refrigerator for about a week (red pine seeds for one to three weeks).

Fill a seed tray up to about a half inch from the top with a light bonsai soil, make a row in the soil with your finger and plant the seeds about twice their thickness under the soil. Water and keep moist, but not soaking wet.