

# Seed Growing with Red Cups:

1. Put 7 or 8 holes in the bottom of red plastic cup (a sturdy leather needle will do it).

2. Pour in about 1" depth of sand.

3. Next, partly fill with your normal soil mix. (Often I use about 2 parts of gravel-sand, 1 part desert dirt - not clay!, 2 parts pumice, and sometimes  $\frac{1}{4}$  part of fine mulch or leaf mould - be careful, most cacti and succulents do not like much organic material.) Leave about  $\frac{3}{4}$ " of room at top surface. Carefully wash down the interior upper sides so that no dust is present.

4. Fill top with about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " of sterilized finer soil mix. (I usually wet the sterile mix a bit BEFORE I add it since it may not wet well in the water bath ( see #7 below). I sterilize soil in a toaster oven.

5. Distribute the seeds - methods vary slightly depending on size, shape, and type.

6. Sometimes scatter a dusting of sterile fine sand on surface.

7. Set the cup in a water bath about 2" to 3" deep. Leave in the bath for at least an hour. You may wish to leave it there overnight for some seeds.



8. Place 2-liter plastic soda-bottle top dome on and screw on the cap.

9. Place in appropriate filtered light and temperature and wait...

10. Rehydration: if after an appropriate amount of time, none come up, mist the surface, being careful not to dislodge the seeds.

Caution: Your red cup with 2-liter bottle top is a closed system. Therefore, no direct sunlight – Don't cook them. After a few weeks, eliminate the screw-on cap. Sprinkle some fine gravel, mist, and place clear dome back on without the cap. In a few months remove the dome completely. Keep seedlings moist, not soggy.