

SCIENCE FACT SHEET

Seed Germination

Have you ever wondered how seeds become plants?

A seed starts to become a plant when it germinates. For a seed to germinate, it needs to be planted in soil that is warm, has the right amount of water and oxygen. Some seeds need light to germinate, but most don't. If the soil is too dry or cold, a seed might not germinate. This is why we usually plant seeds in spring, when we get warmer weather and rain.

When a seed germinates, the main root of the plant breaks through the seed shell. This main root gets bigger, then little side roots start to grow. At the same time, the stem of the plant grows upwards towards the sunlight. When the top of the plant is above the soil, leaves will start to appear.

Once the plant has started to grow, it needs light to keep growing. If you bury the seed too deep there won't be enough light for the plant to grow up and out of the soil.

How a plant grows from a seed

