



# Seedcult

## Archival/Horticultural Cold Stratification

Some seeds won't germinate until they've experienced winter. It's not a flaw - it's a survival mechanism. Cold stratification mimics the natural freeze-thaw cycle these seeds need to break dormancy and sprout when conditions are right.

If you're planting any of our cold-stratification varieties, your window isn't spring - it's now. These seeds need weeks of cold exposure before they'll wake up. Miss that window, and you're waiting another year.

Here's what you need to know:

What is cold stratification? A period of cold, moist conditions (usually 4-12 weeks) that tells the seed winter and it's safe to grow.

How to do it:

- Dampen a paper towel, wrap your seeds, seal in a plastic bag
- Refrigerate (not freeze) for the time specified on the packet
- Plant after stratification is complete
- Labelling and dating can be useful, especially if you're doing this with multiple species or varieties

Why it matters for your calendar: If a seed needs 8 weeks of cold stratification, and you want to plant in April, you need to start refrigerating by February. Plan backwards from your last frost date.

These aren't difficult seeds - they just require patience and timing. Get it right, and you'll be rewarded with varieties that most gardeners never attempt.