



Green Connections C.I.C.
Plants & Arts for Communities

Next steps after sowing calendula seeds

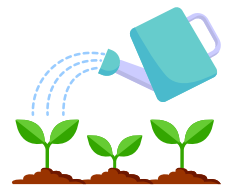
Whether you're planning to eventually grow the calendula indoors or outdoors, the next steps are as follows

Place the eggbox with sown seeds near a sunny window to ensure they get plenty of light.



Watering and Care:

- Keep the compost (with seeds) consistently moist, soaking in a sink or bowl of water if the compost begins to dry out.
- You may wish to spray or drop on some diluted neem oil (**available from Amazon and garden centres**) to prevent tiny gnats appearing (due to the peat free compost). **NB these gnats are harmless and do not carry disease or harm the plant.**
- Seedlings usually appear within 7 to 14 days, **giving the first set of leaves.**
- Leave the seedlings in the eggbox on the window sill and keep the soil moist.
- Wait until the next set of leaves appear. This set of leaves are known as the 'true leaves'.





Green Connections C.I.C.
Plants & Arts for Communities

Once the true set of leaves appear:

Soak your large compost square, then make a hole large enough for your seedlings to be securely placed in, bringing the compost back in to the middle afterwards.

Keep the seedlings on the windowsill indoors until all risk of frost has gone.

FOR OUTDOOR GROWING

For outdoor growing, begin to harden off the seedlings at the end of April, by gradually introducing them to outdoor conditions. Plant in a sunny border (or place container in a sunny spot) with good drainage and water in well.

FOR INDOOR GROWING

To continue with indoor growing, keep the calendula seedlings on a sunny windowsill, only watering when the soil appears dry. During the day, if possible, allow ventilation by opening a window.



Both indoor and outdoor grown calendula plants will produce flowers in early summer.

ONGOING CARE

Calendula require very little care. Water in dry conditions and feed fortnightly with a diluted high potash liquid fertiliser, such as a tomato feed, to keep plants producing flowers.



Deadhead (snip off) spent flowers to further encourage the production of flowers but bear in mind that calendula seeds can be saved to sow the following year, so it's beneficial to leave some seeds to develop at the end of the season.

www.greenconnections.co.uk

