

One Way To Start Seeds

By *Acy Puckett*

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- 1) Take a half gallon paper milk carton and poke some small drain holes in the bottom of it (DO NOT CUT OFF THE TOP OF THE CARTON), then fill it with 3" to 4" of potting soil.
- 2) After soaking your seeds in water overnight, take 2 or 3 of them and plant them no more than ½" deep or as deep as they are long in each of your cartons.
- 3) Keep the potting soil moist (NOT WET) and in a warm place until the seeds sprout and grow till they have 4-6 or more leaves on them.
- 4) After danger of frost has passed transfer the gourd plants carton and all to your garden. Dig a hole large enough to hold your carton and deep enough to have the potting soil inside the carton at the same level as the soil outside the carton.
- 5) Carefully cut off the bottom of the carton (DO NOT CUT OFF TO HIGH UP THE SIDE OF THE CARTON) and place carton and gourd plant in the hole. Move soil in around carton.
- 6) By planting carton and gourd plant together, you place a protective barrier around the plant to protect it from wind, hot sun, and insects.
- 7) For each carton you plant take a 1 gallon plastic carton and cut just the bottom off of it. These can be used to place over the top of your gourd plants incase of late frost, and they will work as a mini greenhouse also.
- 8) After your gourd plants have become well established, you can cut off the carton at ground level and discard it.

If you have any down on the farm tips that work for you and you would like to share them with others, send them to "The Tendril" Editor and maybe we can get a "Down On The Farm Column" started.