How to Make a Seed Tape

Seed tapes are a great project for kids. Seed tapes make planting small seeds an easier task and can make seed spacing a snap! Seed tape has several advantages. No seed is wasted; the seeds are embedded into the paper tape one at a time and are perfectly spaced and ready to go into the garden. This also means that no thinning is required. They are especially useful for tiny seeds which can be difficult to plant such as radish, carrot, lettuce or parsnip. Seed tapes can be prepared and stored prior to planting season. Let's make a seed tape for a window box.

Supplies

Toilet paper	Seed	Marker
All-purpose Glue	Ruler	Tweezers

Watch the video at www.hgtvgardens.com/diy-garden-projects/make-toilet-paper-seed-tape or www.youtube.com/watch?v=-w6JoJH4FPo.

Step 1: Measure the length of the window box

Step 2: Prepare the tape

Measure out a length of toilet paper which equals the length of the window box.

Cut the toilet paper in half lengthwise.

Step 3: Mark seed spacing

Consult the packet of seeds to find out how far apart the seeds should be planted. If the seed is typically thinned once it has sprouted use the distance recommended for thinning plants.

Use a marker to mark each spot where a seed will go.

Add a dot of glue to each mark.

Step 4: Glue the seeds

Pour the seeds out onto a plate, then spread them around a little to make them easy to pick up.

Using tweezers (or tiny fingers), pick up a seed and place it on one of the drops of glue.

Continue until you have placed seeds on all the glue drops.

You may choose to fold over the toilet paper or leave it in a single layer.

Let dry completely.

Step 5: Store your seed tape

Once your seed tape is dry, you can roll it back onto the cardboard toilet paper tube or fold it. Store it in a plastic bag or container cool, dry place until you are ready to plant.

Drop the seed packet with instructions in with your seed tape for future reference.

Step 6: Planting tips

- To plant, lay the seed tape on the soil surface, weighting it with a rock or stone to keep the wind from moving it.
- Cover with soil to the depth recommended on the seed packet.
- Firm the soil to make sure there is good soil-seed contact.
- Water with a fine nozzle to avoid washing away the soil.
- Keep the soil most until seedlings appear.
- If starting seeds indoors, you may wish to cover the container with plastic wrap to encourage germination.

Optional: Make your own glue

Recipe 1		Recipe 2
Ingredients: • 1 T corn starch • 1 c cold water *Directions:* Dissolve cornstarch in water over medium heat until it boils and thickens. Mixture should look opaque and cling slightly to a fork before dripping off. Let it cool and transfer into a squeeze bottle. Add 1 drop of food coloring and shake the bottle to make glue dots easier to see.	- OR -	*Ingredients:* • 2 T white flour • 2 T water *Directions:* Mix flour and water together to make a thick paste. This paste will act as glue to hold the seed in place. You don't want this to be watery and thin.