



Thinning Seedlings

Whaaat?! I have to toss some of these perfectly healthy seedlings I worked so hard to start?

That is the reaction of many a new gardener upon first learning that thinning seedlings is a necessary step to ensure healthy growth of plant starts. The reality is that, if left in crowded environs, your seedlings will eventually suffer.

What is Thinning?

Thinning seedlings involves removing some of the seedlings sown too close to one another so that the strongest ones can thrive. If left un-thinned, crowded seedlings will compete for nutrients, water, air, and root space, and that will ultimately stunt their growth. This practice ensures the proper spacing of plants, either in cells inside or in the ground outside.

If your seedlings are indoors, thin them out until there is only one left in each cell or pot. If your seedlings are direct sown outdoors, thin them according to the spacing requirements on the seed packet.

