



Nature's Blossom



Bonsai

INSTRUCTION MANUAL

Welcome to Nature's Blossom - Bonsai experience

Growing plants from seed is a beautiful way to reconnect with your roots.

You are about to embark on the exciting, rewarding journey of growing your own Bonsai trees from seed.

Bonsai, by definition, is the art of growing regular trees inside containers, and artificially preventing them from reaching their normal size. People have been growing Bonsai trees for over a thousand years, and while science has improved the process, you are about to embark on a timeless, fulfilling experience.

In this manual, you will find everything you need to know to successfully grow your first Bonsai tree from seed. **Please ensure to delicately follow every step of this guide to make sure that your seeds will turn into healthy, Bonsai trees for years to come.**

If you have any further questions or requests, please view our online content or contact us directly at support@natures-blossom.com. So, thank you for choosing Nature's Blossom and letting us join you on this eternal journey.

Got a problem?

Please get in touch with us at support@natures-blossom.com
We're here with you every step of the way!





Did You Know? Bonsai is an ancient Japanese form of art, literally translated to “planted in a container.” The goal of growing a Bonsai is to create a miniaturized tree that mimics the shape and scale of full-size trees. The 1000-year old practice locks the roots inside the pot, preventing the tree from growing to its full size.

Hypothetically, any tree can have a Bonsai version. We have chosen four unique tree seeds for the Nature's Blossom Bonsai Kit: Jacaranda Mimosifolia, Picea Mariana, Pinus Thunbergii and Cassia Fistula. **We carefully selected these trees as they are sturdy, fun to shape, low maintenance and most importantly, beautifully aesthetic!**

What's in your kit

1 4 SEED PACKETS

- Jacaranda Mimosifolia
- Cassia Fistula
- Pinus Thunbergii
- Picea Mariana

2 4 BIODEGRADABLE GROWING POTS

Ideal for growing from seed. Once your seeds have properly germinated, these pots can easily be transplanted into the ground.

3 4 PEAT SOIL DISCS

Made from a unique mixture of peat and coconut. The discs expand 6-7 times their original size when watered. This type of soil is ideal for maximizing germination rates.

4 4 PLANT MARKERS

Allows you to label each pot so that you don't lose track. Write down the name of the seeds and the sowing date.



Missing items?

Please contact us at
support@natures-blossom.com
and we'll send you the new items
straight away - no questions asked!

Before We Start

HERE ARE THE THREE CRUCIAL FACTORS
OF SUCCESSFULLY GROWING BONSAI FROM SEED:

1 | **Keep the soil at the right temperature**

70-80°F - Without the correct temperature, it is impossible to achieve germination.

2 | **Carefully choose the correct placement for your plant**

First three days - no direct sunlight! After that, you need to carefully manage the amount of sunlight and airflow that the plant receives.

3 | **Water balance**

Keep your soil moist at all times, but never saturated with water. Using a water mist is recommended.

PREPARATION AND PLANTING





GETTING STARTED

Can't we just plant already?

Let's be patient and make sure we get this right.

Each plant has specific instructions regarding water, sunlight, germination periods and soil temperature. To ensure that you obtain the desired results, please make sure that you carefully read each step before continuing.

Not ready to plant yet?

That's fine. Simply store your seeds in the fridge and keep an eye on the expiry date on the seed packets. You should have at least a year until the seeds expire.

PREPARING THE SEEDS

I'm ready, the seeds are ready - let's start planting?

Not quite! The seeds need a day of preparation before we can sow them into the soil. Trust us - it'll be worth it.

Prior to sowing the seeds, we recommend delicately scratching the outer shell of the seed, and then soaking the seeds in water.

- The purpose of the soaking period is for the seeds to absorb the water and swell, significantly decreasing the amount of time it takes for a seed to germinate.
- **First, using nail clippers, gently remove parts of the outer shell of the seeds.** Make as shallow a cut as possible on the seed, just deep enough to allow water to penetrate the seed coat. Be careful to avoid damaging the plant embryo inside the seed, you want to cut just through the seed coat while leaving the structure within the seed unharmed.
- **Soak the seeds in room-temperature water for 16-24 hours before planting.** Do not soak the seeds in boiling water, as this will ruin the seeds before you have even planted them.





- **IMPORTANT!** Do not soak the seeds for more than 24 hours. Soaking the seeds for more than 24 hours will harm the seeds, so set yourself an alarm and don't forget!
- **Make sure that you soak the different types of seeds in separate cups,** and label them so that you don't forget which one is which.
- **You will only use 7 seeds in each pot.** Store the remaining seeds in a small packet and do not expose the packet to sunlight or warmth. These seeds may come in handy in a few weeks.

Got Questions?

We're always happy to answer.
You can reach us at
support@natures-blossom.com

PREPARING THE SOIL

That doesn't look like soil to me?

Just wait and see - the magic is about to happen.



- **For this step**, you will need a large mixing bowl and 1-2 litres of room-temperature water.
- **The amount of water and moisture in the soil is crucial for success.** Be very careful and specific when pouring the water over the soil.
- **Keep in mind that each soil disc will expand 6-7 times their original size**, so you should choose the bowl accordingly.
- **Do not touch** the soil discs while adding the water as they may break.

SOIL EXPANSION

- **Place the Soil Discs in the bowl and pour half a glass of water around the discs, but not directly on them.** This should soften... (first sentence of first bullet point change, keep second sentence)
- **Slowly add small portions directly onto the soil discs and monitor the soil's expansion.** You should notice the soil pellets expanding immediately.
- **Repeat this process until the soil expands to about 6-7 times its original size.** To make sure that the discs have completely expanded, gently check the soil for any hard, unexpanded pieces. If you find any, pour small amounts of warm water over the hard pieces until they fully expand.

COOLING + DRAINING

- **Let the expanded soil cool down to room temperature.** This should take around 10-15 minutes.
- **Too much moisture in the soil can cause mold.** Transfer the soil to a smaller bowl and begin draining the soil by firmly squeezing it to remove any excess water until the soil is slightly moist. This means that there is no water dripping down, but the soil is still wet enough to stick together and not crumble.

POTTING

- **Delicately break the soil and sprinkle it into the biodegradable pots, without firmly pushing the soil down.** The aim is to leave natural pockets of air inside the pots to allow for room to grow, adequate airflow and moisture drainage.
- **Leave a small portion of soil aside** - we will use this later.





SOWING THE SEEDS

How hard can this be? Just mix the seeds and the soil together inside the pot, it's not rocket science?

Not so fast! Perhaps it's not rocket science, but it is science.

You have to be precise if you ever want to see those seeds turn into sprouts.

- **Use your index finger to gently create seven holes in the soil at the top of the surface of each pot.** Make sure that these holes are evenly spread across the pot. These holes will each foster one seed, and should not be more than ½ an inch deep.
- **Place one seed in each hole, and use a portion of the remaining soil to delicately cover the seeds inside the holes.** DO NOT push down when covering the seeds, as your new seedling will need to be able to emerge through the soil in the germination period.
- **Do not sow more than 7 seeds in each pot.** Store the remaining seeds in a small packet and do not expose the packet to sunlight/warmth. These seeds may come in handy in a few weeks.
- **Place the biodegradable pots on a flat surface like a plate or a tray.** You will notice that the pots have holes at the bottom to enhance airflow and release moisture, so make sure that you place the pots on a surface that you don't mind getting wet.

Did You Know?

The oldest Bonsai Tree is estimated to be 1000 years old. The Ficus Retusa can be found at the Crespi Bonsai Museum in Italy.

WELL DONE!

You have successfully sown the seeds.

The next 10-25 days will need patience and precision as you start to see your seeds slowly germinating.

THE STEP BY STEP PROCESS - GERMINATION

Germination rates are dependent on many factors - soil temperature, outside temperature, water, humidity, depth of planting, air flow, just to name a few.

As such, each seed can take a varying amount of time to germinate, depending on the growing conditions. As a general estimate, we believe that if you follow this manual carefully, you should begin to see seedlings within the first two weeks. **However, keep in mind that the keys to success are patience and precision.**

Don't see the germination you expected? We've got your back!

Our gardening experts will give tips and solutions to drive the results you hope for.

Too late? We will be happy to send you more seeds. We're with you every step of the way! We'll do whatever we can to make sure your gardening experience will be successful!

For any issues with germination,
please contact us at
support@natures-blossom.com

FIRST THREE DAYS - INITIAL GERMINATION

Awesome, I'm finished planting - when do I get to see my Bonsai Tree?

Slowly, slowly! This is just the beginning of the process. The hard (or fun) work is still ahead.

- **The most important factors in the first three days are moisture and heat.** Airflow is crucial for the germination process and to avoid mold.
- **During germination, keep your growing pots in a warm space.** The soil must be at 75-85F to allow the seeds to germinate.
- It is crucial **NOT to expose your seeds to direct sunlight** in the first three days after planting.
- **Place your pots in a warm room, far away from windows or doors.** Ideally, the room should be at a temperature of 70-85F for most of the day.
- **During the first three days, maintain the moisture of the soil, but make sure it is never saturated with water, nor completely dry.** If the soil starts to harden up and changes to a lighter color, lightly water the soil with about an ounce of water.
- **When watering, it is best to use a spray or mister to evenly and lightly water the soil.** If you do not have this option, use about 3.4 oz (100ml) and evenly spread the water across the entire surface of the plant. Try to water the soil surrounding the seeds.
- If water drips through the bottom drainage holes of your pots, **make sure you dry the surface below the pots to avoid over-saturation** which can harm your germination rates and create mold. For this reason, we recommend placing your pots on a plate or a tray. You should do this throughout the entire growing process.



AFTER THREE DAYS - LET THERE BE LIGHT!

Nothing has changed - what was the point of these first three days?

The first stage is the growth of the roots inside the pot, so now is the time to support your plant with a lot of sunlight and airflow.

- Place your pot on a windowsill, or outside in a partially shaded location, and **make sure that it receives at least 4 hours of strong indirect sunlight per day** - too much direct sunlight at this stage will burn the seeds.
- **Try to choose a window that faces south, south-east or south-west.** If you don't have any windows that face that direction, place your plant facing east or west. Avoid placing your plant facing north, as this direction receives insufficient sunlight. If there is no alternative, we suggest that you supplement your plant with an artificial light source, such as LED grow lights. We have more information about this later on in the manual.
- **Rotate your pot 90 degrees clockwise every day,** so that all sides of the plant are exposed to sunlight.
- Airflow is crucial for providing the seeds oxygen and avoiding mold. If you have placed the plant on a windowsill, open the window for at least a few hours a day. If the climate is too harsh to open a window, place the pots near a fan/air conditioner (not directly in front).
- **Airflow is crucial for providing the seeds oxygen and avoiding mold.** If you have placed the plant on a windowsill, open the window for at least a few hours a day. If the climate is too harsh to open a window, place the pots near a fan/air conditioner (not directly in front).
- Monitor your plant's soil every day, and **ensure that you have the correct balance of soil moisture.** If the soil starts to harden up and changes to a lighter color, lightly water the soil with about 3.4 oz (100ml) of water.



SOIL TEMPERATURE

I thought the seeds just needed water + sunlight?

What does the temperature of the soil have to do with anything?

The temperature of the soil can make or break your plant.



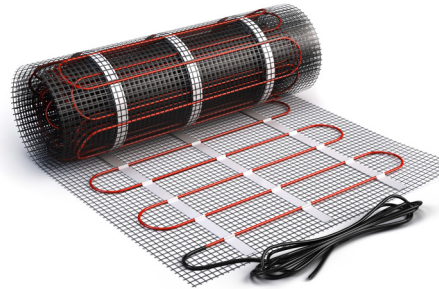
- **During the germination phase, soil temperature is the most important factor in ensuring that your seeds turn into sprouts.**
- **78-85°F is the ideal temperature for the seeds.** If the soil temperature is lower than that, the chances of germination are slim.
- **Keep your growing pots in a warm space.** If the soil temperature is too cold, the seeds cannot sprout. **However, keep in mind that sunlight is not required** during the germination phase.

We recommend covering the pots with a plastic sheet during germination, maintaining keep track of the soil and remove the plastic sheet periodically during the germination phase to prevent mold, while keeping the soil at the desired moisture level.

KEEPING THE SOIL WARM IN WINTER

Do you really expect me to leave the heating on 24/7?

Definitely Not! Here are some creative ways to maintain the ideal soil temperature during the frost.



HEATING MATS

- As you should have learned by now, the germination period is much more about soil temperature than anything else.
- Heating mats are an affordable solution to maintaining the soil at the ideal temperature during the colder months, and designed specifically for seed starting. You simply place your pot on the mat, and set the mat to the desired temperature (80°F).
- There are some great options for Heating Mats on Amazon. Only buy a product with an MET Safety Certification! The price range should be between \$10-\$30 US.

GROW LIGHTS

- You can use grow lights, which are great for both providing enough light to your plants, and can keep the soil temperature at the desired levels.
- There are some great options for grow lights on Amazon. If you do buy grow lights, there is no need to spend more than \$25 US.
- When choosing grow lights, we recommend picking a product with 3-5 dimming levels, and with flexible timer options.
- Grow Lights provide Blue Light and Red Light which can be used in different stages of the growth period. If you decide to buy, we recommend you adequately research how to optimise the effect of your grow lights. Alternatively, ask us for more information at support@natures-blossom.com.

MORE WAYS TO KEEP THE SOIL WARM



MAKESHIFT HEATING MATS

- We can take the concept of the heating mat, and recreate it in the everyday home.
- You can place your seeds on top of your fridge or any other appliances around the house that emits warmth and won't be affected by moisture. Let us know if you have found a creative solution.
- If you're extra ambitious, there are plenty of DIY heating mats tutorials on YouTube that don't require any expenses.

PROVIDING AN EXTRA LAYER FOR THE SOIL

- Soil can maintain its heat by covering the inside of the pot with black plastic tarp, row covers or garden fleece.

MAKESHIFT GREENHOUSE

- Create a mini greenhouse from clear plastic drink bottles. Simply cut the bottle in half using sharp scissors, then place the top half over your plant.
- Keep the lid off on sunny days, and place it back on when cold weather is forecasted.
- A similar effect is achieved by placing clear foil over the plant on cold days. Be sure not to leave it on for too long, as without ventilation, mold will form.

WATERING

Wake up, brush my teeth, make the bed, water the plants....it's all just routine.

Not quite. Watering your soil is an art - you always have to get the right balance.

- **The trick is keeping the soil moist at all times, without over-watering or letting it dry.** Too little water and the soil will dry out; too much water will rot the seeds and create mold.
- **Your plants need moderately moist soil, even slightly on the dry side.** Only add water when the top surface of the soil begins to become dry. After a while, you will be able to understand whether the plant needs to be watered based on the color of the soil. Too dark means too much water, too light means too dry.
- **We recommend using a spray mister to control the amount of water you add each time.** Frequent small portions are far healthier than adding a large amount of water at once.
- **If you accidentally added too much water,** and there is still water that has not seeped into the soil, promptly remove the sitting water with a spoon.



M O L D

Mold, eww...looks like I got a bad kit.

Hang on a second, not too fast. Mold is natural! Your plant is going to live!



- **If mold appears - that's ok.** Mold is usually created in 100% natural moist environments.
- In case you notice any signs of mold, gently remove any visible spots using a small spoon or your fingers.
- Then, to avoid mold from being recreated in the future, make sure to follow these guidelines:
 - ➊ Keep your growing pots in a well-ventilated place.
 - ➋ Do not over water the soil.
 - ➌ Expose your pots to slightly more indirect sunlight.
 - ➍ Rotate your pots every day or two so they will receive an even distribution of sunlight.
 - ➎ Add a natural anti-fungal to your soil. You can sprinkle cinnamon, baking soda, or apple cider vinegar on top of your soil as an anti-fungal. This acts as a natural deterrent to mold growth and won't harm your plant.

These Tips Didn't Help You? Seeds Didn't Germinate?

Please contact us at support@natures-blossom.com

We will personally guide you to ensure that you achieve germination. **We've got your back!**

AFTER TWO WEEKS - GERMINATION

- Well done! By now, **you should see anywhere between 1-7 sprouts.** You should continue exactly as you are, as it's clearly working for you.
- At this stage, however, **it is important to add fertilizer to the equation as the seedlings have exhausted the soil nutrients.** Fertilizing your plants can promote healthy growth once you have passed the seedling stage, and allows the stem to grow thicker and stronger. We have more about fertilizer later in the manual.

NO GERMINATION? NO PROBLEM!

With your kit, you received double the number of seeds than you actually required in the initial planting.

In case you don't see any seedlings at this point, you can try again using your remaining seeds. **Using the existing soil, repeat the planting process and start again with the 'first three days' step written previously in this manual.** Check if you followed all the steps properly, and if not, correct your mistakes in the second trial.

If after repeating the steps you still don't see any seedlings, get in contact with us at support@natures-blossom.com - **we've got your back!**

Explain your situation to one of our customer support team members, and we will find a solution to your problem. We will be happy to send you a new kit to try again, or even refund your order if necessary - no questions asked. **Your satisfaction is our top priority.**

The Step by Step Guide

NEXT STEPS AFTER GERMINATION

Once your seeds germinate and you notice your first set of plant seedlings, it's time to turn these seedlings into strong, healthy Bonsai Trees that will bring color and freshness to your life.

At the moment, you should have several seedlings growing in a single biodegradable pot. As they get larger, they will start competing over sun, water and all the other necessary nutrients.

Keep in mind - our end goal is to keep only one tree in each single pot.

This is a case of 'less is more'.

To make sure our strongest, healthiest seedlings don't have to compromise on their essential nutrients, there are a few processes that we undertake.

SUNLIGHT AFTER GERMINATION

- When the first seedlings emerge, you can expose your plant to more sunlight - slightly stronger, but still indirect.
- As your seedlings begin to grow, about 1 inch tall, slowly increase the amount of direct sunlight you give your plants - start with a few hours on the first day. Within a week, you can permanently leave your pots on the windowsill.

WATER AFTER GERMINATION

- Keep your soil moist at all times, but never saturated with water. We recommend using a water mist.



THINNING

Thinning is the process of cutting the weaker seedlings to allow the stronger ones to continue to grow.

Wait a second? I just worked all this time to create seedlings, and now you're telling me to cut them? Have you lost your mind?

I see you've grown fond of your plant. That's great! But trust us, this is a case of 'less is more'.

- When the **seedlings reach a height of 2-3 inches**, they will start competing with each other for space, water, sunlight and nutrients.
- You can create more space for your young seedlings by 'thinning' the weaker ones to create more space for the stronger seedlings.
- Simply take a pair of kitchen scissors or garden shears and cut the weaker looking stems at soil level. **Don't try and pull out the roots** of these seedlings, as you may destroy others in the process.
- **You should leave no more than 3-4 seedlings in a single pot at this stage.** The remaining stronger seedlings should be spaced about 2 inches apart. Keep this in mind when deciding which seedlings to 'thin'.
- **In about 1-2 months, you can repeat the process** to keep only the strongest seedlings inside the pot. If you don't want to 'throw away' the other seedlings, you can replant the other ones into separate pots. Remember - one pot, one tree!



R E P L A N T I N G

In case you don't want to thin the weaker seedlings, you can replant a few of them in separate pots, but remember - 1 pot, 1 plant.

Planting all over again? Seriously?

Don't worry! You've done the hard work.

Replanting and planting are very different processes.

- **IMPORTANT! We do not recommend replanting young seedlings, only mature, strong seedlings.** The replanting process can bring the young seedlings into a shock state and damage their growth. It is best to 'thin' young seedlings, and replant the stronger ones.
- Replanting is the process of **extracting the root ball from the Biodegradable Pots** and transferring them into separate pots or containers.
- When replanting, **dig all the way around the seedling** with a small spade or spoon. You don't want to remove the seedling. You want to remove the root ball around the seedling.
- **Fill the new pot with a thin layer of heavy grain soil first** - small stones, lava rock, grit or Akadama. This serves as a drainage layer.
- Now, fill the rest of the pot with fresh potting soil.
- Dig a small hole to fit the root ball and seedling. **Place the root ball where you dug the hole**, and cover it with fresh soil, so that only the plant is visible.
- **Once replanted, immediately add plenty of water and make sure to closely monitor your plant for the next few days.** We recommend testing this process on 1-2 seedlings before doing so with all of them.
- **When replanting your seeds, it is also a good time to start fertilizing.**

CHOOSING THE RIGHT POTS FOR REPLANTING

- **Choosing a pot that fits your Bonsai, both in size as in style, is crucial for the composition.**
- If the pot is too small, it can stunt growth and damage the plant; too large and the plant might outgrow its desired size.
- As a general rule, for oval or rectangle pots, the length of the pot should be $\frac{2}{3}$ the height of the tree. For round pots, the diameter of the pot should be $\frac{1}{3}$ height of the tree.
- **As the plant grows larger, your pot can become shallower and wider.** If your seedling is less than 3 months old, search for a pot with similar dimensions to the Biodegradable Pots.



FERTILIZER

I thought you said beginners starter kit?

You're no longer a beginner! But don't worry, fertilization is a simple process.

- **Fertilizing your plants can help promote healthy growth once they are at the seedling stage.** Begin fertilizing about two weeks after planting, providing your seeds have germinated.
- Think of fertilizer as a supplement - most soil cannot provide the essential nutrients for ideal growth. Fertilizer strengthens the plant and ensures that it is receiving all the necessary elements to thrive.
- **With this Bonsai plant, apply a water-soluble fertilizer.** Dilute the fertilizer according to the instructions on the extract.
- After applying the fertilizer for the first time, monitor your plants closely. Make sure they are draining well.
- **Follow the manufacturer label to make sure that you are fertilizing the correct amount** - the standard amount is once or twice a week. Otherwise, water your plant with untreated water.

Questions?


We're here for you! Please contact us at support@natures-blossom.com

TRANSPLANTING YOUR BONSAI TREES OUTSIDE

They're Bonsai Trees, They're Indoor Plants!

Not necessarily - The beauty of Bonsai Trees is that you can keep them indoor or outdoors.

- **A common misconception about Bonsai Trees is that they should be kept indoors.** Most trees should be placed outside, exposed to the four seasons with temperature changes and a relatively high humidity.
- **Most seeds cannot endure extreme frost or heat,** so keep this in mind when decided whether to transplant your trees. For questions about where to plant your trees and how to protect from extreme weather please contact us at support@natures-blossom.com
- Our biodegradable pots allow you to transplant your plants directly into the ground, or into a larger pot/container. Roots will grow through the pot.
- **If transplanting your Bonsai outside, place your pot in a shady outside location for at least 2 days to let it acclimatize.** Green thumbs call this 'hardening off' a plant.
- **You should aim to do this process in the Spring or Fall, and not in extreme weather.**
- Once you've finished 'hardening off' the plant, dig a hole just larger than the biodegradable pot. Plant the biodegradable pot into the hole as it is, and fill soil in any spaces between the pot and the soil, as well as some at the top to cover the pot.
- **Water the plant as soon as it is in the ground.** You should watch your plant closely for the next few weeks.

A row of potted bonsai trees in decorative ceramic pots. The pots are light-colored with colorful, traditional-style patterns. The trees are green and well-maintained, with dark trunks. The background is slightly blurred, showing more trees and a white wall.

Amazing work on getting this far!
We'd love to see photos of your trees as they grow!

To learn how to shape, wire and trim your Bonsai Trees, please visit our website or contact us at support@natures-blossom.com

We'd love to hear your feedback!
Please review our kit on Amazon and support our small business.

**HAPPY GROWING
FROM THE
NATURE'S BLOSSOM
TEAM!**

Nature's Blossom

Meet Your New Bonsai Trees



PINUS THUNBERGII

Pinus Thunbergii, commonly known as Japanese black pine, is highly popular along the seacoast in Japan and South Korea. The interesting characteristics of this species are its silky white, candle-like buds which contrast nicely with the dark green foliage.



JACARANDA MIMSIFOLIA

Jacaranda Mimosifolia is a South American tree that has been widely planted elsewhere due to its attractive, long-lasting indigo flowers. The Jacaranda Mimosifolia, now common in Australia, has a modern folklore significance. The flowers bloom at the time of Australian spring, which coincides with their final exam period. Legend has it that if one of the indigo flowers drops on a student's head, that student will pass their exams.



PICEA MARIANA

Picea Mariana, also known as the Black Spruce, is a North American tree in the Pine family. The tree is widespread across Canada. A tea made from the inner bark of the Picea Mariana is a folk remedy for kidney stones and stomach problems.



PINUS ARISTATA

Pinus Aristata is a long-living pine tree native to the United States. It appears predominantly in the Rocky Mountains in Colorado and New Mexico. Pinus Aristata is one of the most popular Bonsai Trees.

What do you want to grow next?



natures-blossom.com

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Disclaimer of Liability: This kit contains seeds originated in the US. This kit was designed as a gift, and should be treated as such. Nature's Blossom does not assume responsibility and disclaims liability for non-germinated seeds arising from improper use of this product, or as a result of factors that are beyond the company's control.