

AFTER THE SEED HAS BEEN CUT

By Lars Høpfner

There has over the years been written many good articles about the cutting method – I can't do it better.

Here instead are a few comments after the period when the seed has been cut.

Many of the seed are starting to germinate within a week, especially the true *Oncocyclus* species/hybrids and OGB types. The true *Regelia* species/hybrids and RB types are normally not so fast to germinate.

This year have I been doing so with fine results:

After cutting was all the boxes placed dark in 20 – 22 degrees C.

The boxes there not was any germination in after 2 weeks, was placed in my refrigerator (I have my own primary used to seed, beer, fishing bait ect.) for 2 weeks, and then out again and again placed dark in 20-22 degrees C – Several new seedlings is the result of this forcing.

2 weeks after the same again, and again... Here August 30th 2014 have I again been taking the boxes out of my fridge – there was already 1 box more with germinated seed in.

I am moving the box to a light place when germination is starting (without direct sunlight). I am opening the box, when the seedling(s) is about 2-3cm high (depend on the normal height's of the parents) and the seedling(s) has second leaf's. I am also at this moment starting to fertilize the box with a very mild solution of fluid tomato

fertilizer. ½ capsule to 10l water (I am using the rest to my small tomato plants).

When the seedling(s) has its third leaf is it transplanted to a large pot (be very careful with the 2-3 small tiny long roots), and now placed outdoor, protected against late night frost if the seedling is coming early. Directly on my self-watering table thereafter.

I am still using the mild solution of tomato fertilizer (every time I am watering), until the plant has got it's 4 leaf, hereafter am I using 1/1 capsule to 10l water – as I do with the tomatoes now.

From the middle of July to late July am I transplanting every seedling in the pots to my raised kinder garden (be careful not to damage the roots). I am now fertilizing the kinder garden with a good portion of cow and chicken manure pellets. I am not summer covering my kinder garden, I try to keep every plant growing until we can expect the first night frost in the middle of October. By doing this am I now able to get some seed in flower within one year.

I am moving the plants from the kinder garden, when the plant has been flowering for its first time – the best is I keeping - the rest is going to the compost corner.

In general are the plants I have made my selves from seed in my own garden hardier than the plants I am importing, so some of them can survive without any protection in my rock garden year round!

The kinder garden contains a mix of beach sand, grit and in the bottom my normal garden earth. I am every Spring in late February/ beginning of March (when I am moving the plastic cover tunnel from it) spreading a good portion of dolomite chalk on it, and after that also the mix of cow and chicken manure in pellet form + some handful of NPK fertilizer to start the Spring growing!

With changes

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Many of the seed are starting to germinate within a week, especially the true *Oncocyclus* species/hybrids and OGB types. The true *Regelia* species/hybrids and RB types are normally not so fast to germinate.

This year have I been doing this with fine results: after cutting all the boxes placed dark in 20 – 22 degrees C.

The boxes in which there was not any germination after 2 weeks, were placed in my refrigerator (I have my own primary used to seed, beer, fishing bait ect.) for 2 weeks, and then out again and again placed dark in 20-22 degrees C. Several new seedlings resulted from this forcing.

Every 2 weeks the process is repeated until germination. Here, on August 30th 2014 have I again been taking the boxes out of my fridge – there was already 1 box more with germinated seed.

I am moving the box to a light place when germination is starting (without direct sunlight). I open the box, when the seedling(s) is about 2-3cm high (depend on the normal height's of the parents) and the seedling(s) have a second leaves. At this moment I start to fertilize the box with a very mild solution of tomato fertilizer: ½ capsule to 10 l. of water. (I am using the rest on my small tomato plants).

When the seedling has its third leaf is it transplanted to a large pot (be very careful with the 2-3 small tiny long roots), and now placed outdoor, protected against late night frost, if the seedling is coming early. They are placed directly on my self-watering table thereafter.

I am still using the mild solution of tomato fertilizer (every time I am watering), until the plant has got it's 4 leaf, hereafter, I use 1/1 capsule to 10 l. of water – as I do with the tomatoes now.

From the middle of July to late July I transplant every seedling in the pots to my raised kinder garden (be careful not to damage the roots). I now fertilize the kinder garden with a good portion of cow and chicken manure pellets. I do not cover my kinder garden during the summer. I try to keep every plant growing until we can expect the first night frost in the middle of October. By doing this am I now able to get

some seed in flower within one year.

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In general, the plants I have made my self from seed in my own garden are hardier than the plants I import. Some of them can survive without any protection in my rock garden year round!

The kinder garden contains a mix of beach sand, grit and in the bottom my normal garden earth. Every Spring, in late February/ beginning of March, (when I remove the plastic cover tunnel from it) spreading a good portion of dolomite chalk on it. After that I also add the mix of cow and chicken manure in pellet form + a handful of NPK fertilizer to start the Spring growing!