

# MIXING SOIL & FILLING TRAYS

Please read “*BASICS FOR SEEDING*” before you begin this process

## MIXING SOIL

1. Set the two long plastic containers side by side
2. Fill 5 gallon bucket with Gilbertie’s Potting Soil\*. Push it down occasionally to fit in more space. This soil is light, dry, and has white specs in it called perlite. It can be found in the Black bins with yellow top by the seedling tables.
3. Put the 5 gallon bucket in one of the long, plastic containers. Spread it out so it’s evenly distributed.
4. Add 3 Blue containers (about 12 cups) of Wiggle Room’s vermicompost on top of the Potting Soil in the long bin, spread it out over the top.
5. Replace the top, fabric, and plastic on the vermicompost bin so it does not dry out!
6. Azomite is a micronutrient mix we add to give seedlings nutrition as they grow. Sprinkle in 1 Blue container (about 4 cups) of azomite into the dry ingredients.
7. Mix the vermicompost and azomite into the dry potting soil thoroughly using your hands, be sure to reach to the bottom and corners so everything is evenly distributed, without clumps and picking out twigs or pieces of stone.
8. Add approximately 1/2 gallon to 3/4 gallon of water, *slowly*, to the potting soil/vermicompost mix. *\*\*\*\*\*Your soil should be moist enough to have some structure, but not so wet that it stays in a hard ball or drip when you ball it in your hands. (soil that is too wet can compact or rot seeds)*

## FILLING TRAYS

1. NOTE: It is better to fill all of your trays you will use first and then seed, to save time!
2. In the empty, identical plastic tray, put down your celled tray.
3. Put 2-3 handfuls of soil on top and spread it out to fill cells to the top.
4. *Extremely gently* tamp down soil so that soil reaches the bottom of the cell, if you are not sure how much pressure to apply, please ask. Soil must reach the bottom but not get compacted as that will make it extremely difficult for seedlings to root into and cause the seedlings stress.
5. The gently tamped down soil from Step 4 will leave behind a small amount of space - add another handful or two of soil on top and spread it to fill cells with an open hand. Do not tamp down.
6. Remove excess soil from the plastic areas of cell trays
7. Make indents or holes with an implement - think ahead to seeds you will plant and the depth they need. *Seeds are planted at a depth/deepness of approximately twice their width. \*\*\*\*\*It is better to plant seeds too shallow than too deep as one can be fixed and the other leads to seed rot!*

\*The Potting Soil we are using this year is from Sal Gilbertie, this soil is sterile and safe for seed starting. The vermicompost we mix the Potting Soil with is from Monique’s Wiggle room.