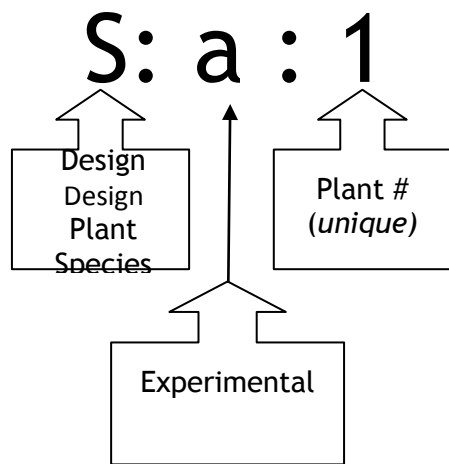


The process of germinating seeds into viable starter plants is at the heart of ECHS - Lee's effort to teach experimental design and a dependence on data for critical thinking. The process described below is considered as a general guide line, individual experimental designs have deliberate variations and are documented on the appropriate Experimental Design Summaries.



1. In general, a given experimental design is started in two week intervals between mid-September and mid-November.
2. Seedlings are planted in commercially available Miracle Grow Potting Mix in 72 cell plastic trays.
 - a. Cells are filled with enough dry soil to completely fill the cells and then water added to provide a moist base.
 - b. The soil is then pressed with two fingers to provide a firm packed medium about ¼" below the top of the tray.
 - c. Seeds are placed on this surface and covered with moist soil pressed to ¼" below the top of the tray.
 - d. Additional water is provided to create an initial 12% - 15% rate of saturation.
3. Germination can be expected in about 80% of cells.
 - a. Seedlings will emerge between 48 and 96 hours at 72 – 76 degrees and out of direct sunlight (indoors) while maintaining 6% - 12% water saturation.
 - b. Significant acceleration (on the order of ½ the time) can happen if plants are provided access to warmer temperatures and 6% - 12% water saturation is maintained.
4. Increasing exposure to outdoor conditions will harden plants over an approximately 3-4 week period.
5. Seedlings are considered mature and ready for deployment with a to field conditions when plants are 3" to 5" high and with significant leaf structure to support growth.

Work to Learn, Learn to Lead!!!

