

Paper Pot Transplanters

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In this blog post, we're going to take a quick look at paper pot transplanters. These devices can drastically cut down on the time it takes to transplant rows of seedlings and can reduce the amount of time you need to spend bent over or kneeling. While originally marketed for lettuce, they can be used for many different types of crops such as basil, onion, cabbage, dill and many more. The [common questions](#) section of the [Paperpot Co](#) website does note that these systems *will not* work for tomatoes, peppers, squash and melons.



Figure 1: Paperpot transplanter. Photo owned by [Paperpot Co](#)

The process starts with planting the seeds for germination. Seeds are planted directly in the paper pot chains. These are available with a few different spacing options, depending on how far apart you want the plants in your rows. Johnnys Seeds has a great [video](#) showing the seeding process, both with and without a dibble tray. Germination times and temperature recommendations vary based on the crop. For input from Paperpot Co, you can see their [How to guides](#) for specific crops.



Figure 2: Seeding in paper pot chains. Photo owned by [Sankou Kagaku](#)

Once your seedlings are ready to be transplanted, you will want to make sure your beds are as free from rocks as possible. The How to guide section on the Paperpot Co website gives recommendations for specific crops, regarding things like fertilizer application and irrigation prior to transplanting. The trays of seedlings are then placed in the transplanter and fed down the chute. You can adjust the wheel height which will also adjust how deep the transplanter will dig the trench.

The first plant in the row is planted manually and can be held in place with a stake or screwdriver if needed. Then the transplanter is just pulled along the row and will plant as it goes! Keep an eye on how much soil is being pushed back onto the plants. This can be adjusted using the fingers near the back end. Once you get to the end of the row, you can tear off the paper chain and move on to the next row.

A short video of the transplanter in action can be found [here](#). If you are interested in a more in-depth look at the process, [Neversink Tools](#) has two longer videos on their YouTube channel. They can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Sources:

[Paperpot Co](#)

[Johnnys Seeds](#) – How to Seed Your Paperchain Pots/Trays

[Sankou Kagaku](#)

[Neversink Farm YouTube channel](#)