

Direct sowing into market packs –

video available also

The versatility of the Turbo/Needle seeder permits it to directly sow into a market pack such as a 12-04, 8-04, 6-06 or even 18-01. This is most often done for crops such as melons, cucumber or other vegetables, although alyssum is another crop that does well directly sown. The direct sow kit consists of:

- 1) a special pusher assembly (the #1, #2 and #3 pushers must be removed)
- 2) a special drop tube with special mounting bolts ($\frac{1}{4}$ -20 x $\frac{1}{2}$ socket head cap screws)
- 3) a support plate for the flat in the machine
- 4) a pusher bearing guide block that fits near the container limit switch

The direct sow pushers index on the top of the flat, but towards the middle of the tray for positive guidance. The shorter plastic drop tube allows clearance for the flat and is used to direct the seeds from several tips into one cell pack. Needle or other manifolds are used to sow the seeds with the requisite number of tips blocked. The indexing system is adjusted typically using the #4 or #5 hole on the wheel to provide sufficient stroke for the chosen container. The kit is installed in about 10 minutes. The direct sow drop tube may be used on Gear model machines, but that machine does not have the mechanism to index the trays through the machine so they must be pushed by hand. The container switch may also have to be “hot wired” if it cannot be adjusted to the tray.



Direct sow kit installed