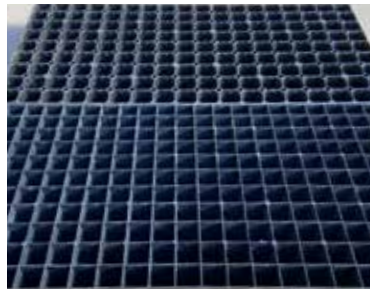


SEEDLING CONTAINERS: A Comparison

The table compares the benefits and drawbacks of polystyrene, polyethylene, and polypropylene seedling containers.



Material	Polystyrene/styrofoam Speedling	Polyethylene/HDPE #2 hard plastic	Polypropylene/PP #5 thermoformed lightweight plastic
Average lifespan	5-10 years	10-15+ years	1-5 years
Typical dimensions	13x26	13x26	10x20
Recyclable	No	Yes	Yes
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cell provides excellent drainage, air pruning • Lightweight, easy to carry/transport • Numerous cell size options • Works well with "off the shelf" vacuum seeders • Relatively inexpensive if purchased in bulk directly from the manufacturer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cells provide excellent drainage, air pruning • Numerous cell size options • Virtually indestructible, longest useful lifespan • Cells don't "etch," thus don't harbor pathogens and no root clinging • Plants remove easily • Easy to clean and sanitize • Stackable or nestable options for storage • Works well with "off the shelf" vacuum seeders • Relatively inexpensive if purchased in bulk directly from the manufacturer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very lightweight, easy to carry/transport and ship • Nestable for storage • Largest array of cell sizes available • Can be used with lower cost "off the shelf" vacuum seeders • Cells don't "etch," thus don't harbor pathogens and no root clinging • Plants usually remove easily • Very inexpensive
Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brittle, easily damaged • Cells can become "etched," providing habitat for pathogens and making plant removal more difficult if roots grow into etching • Difficult to clean and sanitize • Highest environmental footprint • Expensive if purchased in retail quantities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heaviest container option, more difficult to carry/transport • More expensive than polypropylene • Expensive if purchased in retail quantities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cell design often doesn't optimize drainage, little to no air pruning • Shortest useful lifespan • Additional carrying/support trays sometimes necessary

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