Seed Snail method to start seeds

Supplies: Polyethylene wrap (the flexible foam used as protection in shipping; $20 for 15"x80'), seed starting or potting mix, waterproof tape or twine, indelible marker, tray or plastic pots

1. Cut your wrap material into strips approximately 6 - 7 inches high and at least 17 inches long.
2. Spread a ½-inch layer of *pre-moistened* seed starting or potting mix on top of wrap, leaving about ½ inch at the top to catch water and 4 inches on one side to allow for expansion.
3. Tightly roll up the strip, turn the snail upright, and secure it with waterproof tape or twine.
4. Tamp down the soil, **sow seeds at the proper depth**, and mist with water.
5. Label each snail by writing on the tape and/or placing a seed tag.
6. Cover with plastic wrap or a baggie to keep moist.
7. Group the snails together on a tray or place individual snails inside plastic pots.
8. Place snails on a heat mat to assist germination.
9. Bottom water as snails dry out, removing standing water from tray if accumulated.
10. Remove plastic covering once seeds sprout.
11. Transfer the snails to the seedling area where they will be under lights 16 hrs/day.
12. When the seedling begins outgrowing the snail's top and bottom, pot up if needed, and harden off by gradually exposing to light and temperature differences.
13. When acclimated, gently unroll the seed snail, exposing the roots.
14. Gently tease the seedlings apart, discarding spindly ones.
15. Plant the most healthy seedlings in their permanent spot when outdoor temperatures allow.

NOTES:

Kind of seed planted: _____

Date started: _____ Date hardening off started: _____

Date planted: _____ Date harvest began: _____