



The Rack

I use a metal wire 5 shelf rack I bought from a big box store. It measures about 6' tall, 4' wide and 18" deep. The rest of the year I use it for storage in my office. You might only need a rack with two or three shelves depending on how many seedlings you start each year.

Make sure the length of your shelves matches the length of the lights you buy!

Here's a [link](#) to the exact shelf I bought at Target.



The Lights

I use standard 4' long shop lights that hold two florescent bulbs. Here's a [link](#) to the lights I use on my rack. I put two light fixtures on each shelf, for a total of eight for the 5 shelf rack (you can't hang lights on the bottom shelf).



Bulbs

On each shelf I use two sets of lights, so four bulbs total. I find that one set isn't enough light for the seedlings.

I put three soft white florescent bulbs and one grow light bulb in each set of four. I position the grow light in one of the middle two bulbs.

Soft white bulb

Grow light bulb

Soft white bulb

Soft white bulb

Here are links to the [soft white bulbs](#) and [grow light bulbs](#) I use.

Just buy the cheapest regular fluorescent bulbs you can find at the hardware store. It doesn't matter what brand. Then invest in one grow light bulb for each shelf. When plugged in the grow light bulb emits a more purple light.



Chains & S-Hooks

The lights are hung with metal chains and s-hooks. I put an s-hook on either side of the chain so one goes in the top of the shop light and one on to the wires on the shelf above the light. This allows you to move the lights up and down as needed.

Chains and s-hooks are available at most hardware stores.



Other Supplies:

Timer: Your lights should be on for 12 hours per day and off at night. Hooking everything up to a timer will regulate this automatically.

Extension Cords and Power Strips are necessary to get everything plugged in.

Watering Device: I like to use bike water bottles because they are less messy than a watering can. Most thrift stores have plenty for sale.

Seedling Heat Mat: The mat aids the germination of certain crops. Optional. See pg. 20 for more information.

At the end of the book there is a checklist for shopping for supplies for the seedling rack.

Seed Rack Supplies Checklist

Rack

Wire metal shelving unit

Shop lights—2 for each shelf

Soft white fluorescent bulbs—3 for each shelf

Grow light bulb—one for each shelf

Metal chain

S-hooks

Timer

Extension cord

Power Strip