



## GETTING STARTED

- Why?
- What?
- Where?
- When?
- How?

## WHY?

- Selection
- Cost Savings
- Control of Growing Process
- Fun!

## WHAT?

- Always: Tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, tomatillos
- Sometimes: Brassicas, cucurbits, flowers, greens
- Seldom/never: Corn, beans, root crops
- Seed Selection
  - Saved vs. Bought
  - Hybrid vs. open pollinated
  - Catalogs, seed racks, AAS selections, local knowledge

## Cornucopia of Seeds



## WHERE?

- Warm:
  - Furnace room
  - Fridge top
  - Heat mat
- Light:
  - Window sill
  - Grow lights
  - Greenhouse

## WHEN?

- Determine plant-out date
  - ± May 10 average most years
- Count backwards for time indicated on seed packet
- Late February to mid-March for peppers & tomatoes in Douglas County
- Fall/Winter crops in August/September

## Seed Starting Timetable

| SEED-STARTING PLAN  |                      |                   |  |                  |
|---|----------------------|-------------------|--|------------------|
| The Spring Frost-Free Date in My Garden is, <u>MAY 10</u> |                      |                   |  |                  |
| CROP  | WHEN TO START INSIDE | WEEKS FROM SOWING | SAFE TO SET OUT TIME (RELATIVE TO FROST-FREE DATE) | SETTING OUT DATE |
| Basil   | Mar 28               | 6                 | 1 week after                                       | May 15+          |
| Beets*  | Mar 15               | 4-6               | 2 weeks before                                     | Apr 26           |
| Broccoli #  | Mar 15               | 4-6               | 2 weeks before                                     | Apr 26           |
| Cabbage #   | Mar 15               | 4-6               | 4 weeks before                                     | Apr 12           |
| Cauliflower #   | Mar 15               | 4-6               | 2 weeks before                                     | Apr 26           |
| Collards  | Mar 15               | 4-6               | 4 weeks before                                     | Apr 12           |
| Corn* +   | May 1                | 2-4               | 0 to 2 weeks after                                 | May 15-June 15   |
| Cucumber +  | Apr 1                | 3-4               | 1 to 2 weeks after                                 | May 15+          |
| Eggplant +  | Mar 15               | 8-10              | 2 to 3 weeks after                                 | May 15+          |
| Kale #  | Mar 15               | 4-6               | 4 weeks before                                     | Apr 12           |
| Peas #  | Mar 15               | 4-6               | 4 weeks before                                     | Apr 12           |

## HOW?

- **Equipment**
  - Flats, trays, cell packs, domes, plastic, peat pots, foam cups, bleach
  - Potting Mix
  - Vermiculite
- **Seed Treatments**
  - \*Fungicides
  - \*Scarification & Stratification
  - \*Soaking
  - \*Saltpeter (Potassium Nitrate)

## Equipment

Flats, Trays, Cell Packs, Bleach  
Potting Soil, Vermiculite



## Planting

- General: Depth twice the seed diameter
- Large seeds: Potting soil>seed>vermiculite
- Small Seeds: Potting soil>vermiculite>seed
- Water from bottom
- Cover with dome or clear plastic
- Bottom heat best

## Seddling in Cells



## Cover the Seed Trays



## Light Requirements

- Most germinate in dark
- Lettuce, eggplant need light to germinate best
- 8-14 hours direct sunlight or grow lights

## Watering

- Bottom watering best
- May need to mist to retain humidity
- Watch for excess condensation
  - May need to remove covering periodically

## Fertilizing

- Wait until first true leaves appear
- Fish emulsion (5-1-1) or gentle soluble fertilizer
- Best use dilute mix, but more frequently
- More is NOT better – read directions!

## Transplanting

Handle by leaves or roots – not stem



## Hardening Off

- Gradual introduction to harsher outdoor conditions
- Acclimate to sunscald, windburn, temperature variations
- Start one hour daily
- Increase over ~2 weeks before planting out

## Planting Out

- Cloudy day best, or cool of afternoon
- Handle by root ball or leaves – NOT stem
- Proper soil temperature important
- Same depth as grown or deeper
  - Tomatoes as deep as possible, covering stem

Fertilize with weak solution and water in

## Saving and Storing Seeds

- Cool, dry, and dark
- Airtight containers
  - Film containers excellent
  - Silica gel or powdered milk packets as desiccants

Save only open pollinated varieties

Fully mature, disease free specimens

## CATALOG SOURCES

- Wealth of information, not just a sales tool
- Territorial ([territorialseed.com](http://territorialseed.com)) – Cottage Grove, OR
- Nichols ([nicholsgardennursery.com](http://nicholsgardennursery.com)) – Albany, OR
- Johnny's ([johnnyseeds.com](http://johnnyseeds.com)) - Maine
- Park ([parkseed.com](http://parkseed.com)) – South Carolina
- Pinetree ([supersedes.com](http://supersedes.com)) – Maine

## RECOMMENDED READING

- [The Basic Book of Organic Gardening](#), by Rodale Press
- [Encyclopedia of Organic Gardening](#), by Rodale Press
- [Sunset's Western Garden Book](#)
- [Square Foot Gardening](#), by Mel Bartholomew
- [Gardening for Food and Fun](#) – USDA Yearbook of Agriculture
- [The New Organic Grower](#) by Elliot Coleman, Chelsea Green Publishing

Additional information from OSU's website

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/>

Master Gardener Plant Clinic

Master Gardener booth setup at Umpqua Valley Farmer's Market

