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GETTING STARTED

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

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WHY?

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

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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

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Cornucopia of Seeds



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WHERE?

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

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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

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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
Caiflower #	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
Kohlrabi* #	Mar 1	4-6	4 weeks before	Apr 1-12

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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)

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Equipment

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



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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

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Seddling in Cells



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Cover the Seed Trays



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Light Requirements

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

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Watering

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

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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!

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Transplanting

Handle by leaves or roots – not stem



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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

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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

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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

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CATALOG SOURCES

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

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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

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