

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



WHERE? - Furnace room

- Fridge top
- Heat mat
- Light:

• Warm:

- Window sill
- Grow lights
- Greenhouse

WHEN?

- Determine plant-out date
 - $-\pm$ 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 F	'LAN	
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

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)

<u>Equipment</u> 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

Seeding 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

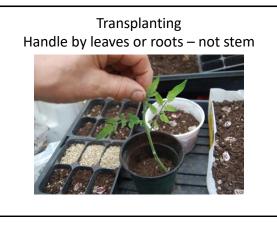
Watering

- 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!



Hardening Off Gradual introduction to harsher outdoor conditions Acclimate to supscald, windburn, tompore

- 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) – Cottage Grove, OR
 •Nichols (nicholsgardennursery.com) – Albany, OR
 •Johnny's (johnnyseeds.com) - Maine
 •Park (parkseed.com) – South Carolina

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 <u>http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/</u> Master Gardener Plant Clinic Master Gardener booth setup at Umpqua Valley Farmer's Market

