

# Spring Planting Guide



*Follow this handy how-to guide to get your garden up and running this spring!*

## How to Start Seeds

- Plant the seed at a depth that is two times as wide as the seed (the seed's diameter).
- Put the seeds somewhere warm where they can germinate (aka sprout). As soon as they sprout, put them in a sunny window sill.



## When to Start Seeds

- Outdoors:
  - Start spring crops (radishes, lettuce, peas) as soon as the ground is workable (weather depending, as soon as late March - mid April).
- Indoors:
  - Start brassicas (broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower) in late March - early April.
  - Start tomatoes, peppers, melons, and winter squash 8 - 10 weeks before the last frost (mid March - early April).
  - Cucumbers and zucchini can be started in mid - April, otherwise you can plant them by May.



## Preparing Your Garden Soil

- Grab a shovel, hoe, broadfork, or any tool you have on hand to break up the soil so you can work it with your hands.
- Add compost or aged manure as a quick amendment (positive addition) to the soil.
- If you don't have tools to till your garden, try gardening in raised beds or raised rows (layering mulch on top of your soil for planting).



## What Your Seedlings Need Inside

- Most seedlings will need 10 - 12 hours of light each day to be healthy. Putting them in a window sill that gets sun all day is ideal.
- Water your seedlings if: they look dry and are "crispy" to touch, the top 2 - 3 inches of soil feel dry to touch, they look burnt or droopy, or the leaves are curled up.



## What Kind of Containers Can You Grow In?

- Egg cartons, milk cartons/jugs, aluminum cooking trays, seedling trays, or any other container as long as it isn't too deep or too tall.
- You can plant in basically anything, from buckets, lick tubs, and totes to raised or mounded beds!



## Compost & At Home Fertilizers

- Follow the rule of green & brown (nitrogen & carbon).
- Mix together greens (grass clippings, most kitchen scraps, freshly pulled weeds) that are high in nitrogen and browns (straw, aged manure, branches, sawdust) that are high in carbon to get rich home fertilizer!



## Transplanting Seedlings Outside

- To prep the seedlings for life outside, "harden" them off by taking them outside periodically to get used to the wind, changing temperatures, and full sun.
- Gradually increase the time your seedlings are outside, from 1 hour on day 1, 1 - 3 hours on day 2, 3 - 5 hours on day 3. Continue to increase the time your seeds spend outside for about a week. Then you're ready to plant them in the ground!

