



12. Don't rush to transplant into larger containers, especially with warm-season crops.
13. Harden them off properly before you bring them to the Plant Sale.

If you've never grown from seed before, it's time to give it a try. We need and welcome the contributions of everyone for the Plant Sale and you get the satisfaction of growing your own plants – from scratch. 🍷

At this year's Plant Sale, we hope to feature a wide variety of seedlings grown by our Master Gardeners. This adaptation of an article from *A Way to Garden.com* should prove helpful.

1. READ the seed packet. It contains the following information: planting depth, germination temperature ranges and days to germination, whether or not light is necessary for germination.
2. Don't start too early. Download the Seed Starting Chart from organicgardening.com and do the math.
3. Buy fresh seed and sterile medium labeled for germination or seed starting; don't use potting soil.
4. Sterilize used flats, trays, cells and pots with a 10% bleach solution.
5. Pre-moisten the mix so it's barely moist before putting in cells or pots.
6. Plant at the proper depth and use a few more seeds than needed/ container. LABEL now.
7. Use a heat mat or cables and a dome lid or plastic wrap to create a germination chamber. Keep the seedling mix evenly moist. Take the cover off once seeds have sprouted.
8. DON'T let seedlings dry out. Water with a mister or set containers in an inch of water for no more than an hour.
9. Thin to one plant/container once two true leaves have appeared.
10. Seedlings need 12-16 hours/ day of light. Keep them 2-3" away from lights or give them a combination of natural and artificial light to avoid spindly seedlings. See gardening.cornell.edu/vegetables for instructions on a simple supplemental light fixture.
11. Take the seedling trays outside on fair weather days, but protect them from direct sunlight. A gentle breeze will help "toughen them up".



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