

## Community Horticulture Fact Sheet #8 Guide to Starting Crops



## **Starting Crops Outdoors**

CROP	PLANT	SEED	COMMENTS	
CRUP	DATE	DEPTH	COMMENTS	
Asparagus	FebMar.	crown 10"	Plant roots/crown. (Seeds take 3+ years to harvest.)	
Green Beans Bush Pole	May-July May-June	1" 1"	Sow 3" apart and thin to 6-8". Pre-soak seeds an hour to speed germination. Grow pole beans on trellises or poles made into teepees: 2-3 seeds per pole.	
Beets	MarAug.	1/4"-1/2"	Sow thick; thin for greens. Thin 3-4".	
Carrots	April-July	1/8"-1/4"	Thin to 2" for half-long and baby types; 4" for full size.	
Corn	May-June	3/4"	Start under cold frame or pre-warm soil with plastic.	
Cucumber	May-June	3/4"	Sow 2 or 3 seeds per hill and thin to one plant.	
Garlic	OctNov. Feb.	1"	Plant cloves with tips just below soil.	
Mustard	FebSept.	1/8"-1/4"	Start heading types, "Choys", in pots indoors.	
Onions	JanAug.	1/8" seed 1/2" sets	Use big sets for green onions & save small ones for bulb onions.	
Parsnips	April-May	1/4"	Sweetest after a frost.	
Peas Bush Pole	FebJuly FebJuly	3/4"-1" 3/4"-1"	Plantings after April should be virus-resistant varieties. Provide sticks as supports. Build trellis before planting.	
Potatoes	MarJune	4"	Plant only "certified seed". Hill up plants as they grow.	
Pumpkin	May-June	3/4"	May be started indoors in peat pots.	
Radish Daikon	JanSept JanJuly.	1/4" 1/4"	Some varieties planted only in July.	
Spinach	FebMay July-Sept.	1/4"	Plant "winter" varieties in Sept. for fall and spring harvest.	
Squash Summer Winter	May-June May-June	3/4" 3/4"	Can be started indoors in peat pots.	
Swiss Chard	MarSept.	1/4 - 1/2"	Can be started in cups indoors.	
Turnips	MarAug.	1/4"	Thin for greens.	

600 128th Street SE, Everett, WA 98208-6353

425-338-2400 • Fax: 425-338-3994 • Master Gardeners: 425-357-6010 • TDD 1 -800-833-6388

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## **Starting Crops Indoors**

CROP	START DATE (Indoors)	TRANSPLANT	COMMENTS
Broccoli	Feb July	* Transplant twice: (or thin to 3" in flats and fertilize.)	Start fall varieties in June and July - Purple Sprouting, etc.
Brussels Sprouts	April - May	1st. time, with 1 true leaf to 3" apart in flats or to 4" pots. 2nd time, with 3-5 true leaves	Later crop over-winters.
Cabbage	Feb July	to outdoor beds.  * Transplant deeply, bury stem	Close spacing yields smaller heads.
Cauliflower	Feb June	to 1st or 2nd leaf (pick off buried leaf when planting).	Difficult to grow. Transplant promptly. Fertilize, water regularly.
Chinese Cabbage	Feb. –Mar. June - July (late var.)	Sow 2-3 seeds in pot/cup. Thin to 1 plant. Transplant with all soil intact.	Important to grow spring varieties for early crop. Other types will bolt.
Celery	Mar April	Transplant to 4" pots or to flats. Put out in May or June.	Difficult to grow.
Collards	Mar Apr. August	Thin to 2" in flats. Plant out when flats are crowded.	May be direct sown in spring.
Kale	Feb April July	May be handled like broccoli or collards.	May be direct sown in spring.
Leek	Jan April	When 1/8-1/4" diameter. Do not bury growing center.	Can sow in garden in Mar. for later transplanting. Plant over-winter varieties at same time.
Lettuce	Feb Aug	Thin to 1" in flats. Transplant out when crowding.	May be direct sown in beds from March on.
Onions, bulbing	Jan Mar. August	Plant out when stems are 1/8" diameter.	Over-winter varieties may be sown in August.
Peppers	March - April	May - June Grow in pots inside or in cold frames until mid-May.	Grow against south wall or under cold frame until July 1.
Swiss Chard	Feb Sept.	Sow 2-3 seeds in pot/cup. Thin to 1 plant. Transplant with soil.	Over-winters for spring harvest.  May also be direct sown into beds.
Tomatoes	March - April	May - June Grow in pots inside or in cold frames until mid-May.	Grow against south wall or under cold frame until mid-June.