

DIRECT SOWING SEEDS

Starting plants from seed sown directly in the garden has many advantages. Seeds are an economical alternative to buying plants. Direct sowing is actually one of the easiest, fastest and most rewarding investments in horticulture. Direct sowing avoids transplant shock. Before sowing, know what conditions are required for germination and growth. You will have less work and you can save money! A \$2.25 packet of seeds can yield the equivalent of \$30 worth of transplants. Many vegetables, herbs, perennials and most hardy annual and biennial flowers can be sown directly into the garden.

Success with direct sowing begins with thorough soil preparation. The soil must be fine enough to accept the seeds and direct contact with the soil is important for seeds to germinate well. Proper spacing and thinning are critical. Plant two to three seeds together in one spot and space the next seeds one to two feet apart depending on the variety. If all of the seeds come up, thin like crazy to ensure that one strong seedling in a group of two or three thrives!

Don't be afraid to try something new. There is a whole generation of gardeners coming along who don't realize that they can put a seed into the ground, right where they want it to grow, and produce a desirable plant. If you need more reasons, think about the following: it's good exercise; it gets you out in the sunshine; you will feel more motivated to eat fruit and vegetables when you have grown them yourself. Your food will be fresher and it will taste better!

Some of the easiest varieties to try are beans, squash, mesclun lettuce, mustard greens, beets, kale, radishes, broccoli, carrots and peppers. You should also try cosmos, linaria, salvia, sweet alyssum, larkspur and snapdragons.

Direct sowing seeds is a great option for keeping dollars in your pocket.



937-426-0861
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