



Crabapple tree in full bloom

If you are planting on a porch, be mindful of frosty evenings where you'll need to provide heat. Speed seed germination with a heat mat that you place under trays or containers and remove the heat mat once the seeds have sprouted.

A container for planting seeds can be anything that is at least two to three inches deep with a drainage hole. You can use milk cartons, cell packs, recycled plastic, or clay pots. Even old coffee mugs can be repurposed as long as you add gravel to the bottom. Get creative, repurpose, and recycle.

Keep the soil moist but not soggy. When a plant has two sets of leaves it's time to feed them with a half-strength fertilizer and get them to sunny locations outdoors as often as possible.

I prefer to sow directly in the ground and have experimented with seeding as early as March. However, my experience has instructed me to spread seeds when the soil is warm in late April, thinning as necessary. Follow instructions on seed packets for best

results. Keep in mind that you will not have 100 percent germination. Sow an amount of seeds that is several times the amount you wish for best results. For small seeds like arugula and greens, I carefully scatter attempting not to have the seeds clumped in one area. All plants need room to spread. For plants growing in cells or trays, I usually transplant in May and have found that these plants tend to do better than those that were planted in early spring. Planting in sets of odd numbers, three, five, seven, nine, or more provides a cohesiveness and richness of texture.

Growing a beautiful garden from seeds is easy and inexpensive. You may have to provide netting to keep hungry birds, roaming rabbits, and ravenous deer out of your yard.

Spring is a time to weed, seed and feed, both metaphorically and literally. I love experimenting in my garden and hope that a hundred years from now my books will be as relevant to readers as "The Herbalist" is.

... continued on page D14

Seeds to start indoors Seeds to sow in containers or directly in the garden: or in a greenhouse:

Broccoli	Eggplants	Arugula	Carrots	Greens	Nasturtiums	Penstemon	Squash
Brussels Sprouts	Peppers	Basil	Cilantro	Herbs	Parsley	Radishes	Sunflowers
Cabbage	Tomatoes	Beans	Corn	Kale	Parsnips	Spinach	Zinnias
Cauliflower	Perennial Flowers	Beets	Cucumbers	Melons	Peas	Swiss Chard	

