

## **Success With Seeds**

*Cabin Fever Day Hyannis Country Garden*

- Read seed packets to learn what special requirements your particular seeds have and when to start them.

### **Indoors**

- Use fresh seed-starting mix, not potting soil or garden dirt. Use containers with drainage holes.
- Get the mix wet before you fill the containers.
- The smaller the seed, the more likely you'll just need to put it on top of the soil/seed mix.
- Cover indoor flats etc with plastic wrap or recycled dry cleaner bags to keep seeds moist while germinating.
- Leave where the seeds are exposed to light unless instructed to start particular seeds in darkness.
- Remove plastic wrap once seeds start to germinate.
- Don't overwater – if you start seeing a green algae grow over the top of your seed-mix, you're keeping it too wet.
- Once seedlings start growing, provide ventilation with a fan. Provide strong light close to the plants.
- Thin plants as needed. Yes, pull some seedlings out!

### **Outdoors**

- Plant outdoors according to directions.
- Sift the soil over the seeds? Not really necessary.
- Don't let your seed-rows dry up.
- Slugs and Earwigs *love* new seedlings...dust rows with Diatomaceous Earth when seedlings first appear. (If you have these pests, repeat after a rain or every 4 days until plants get larger.)
- Don't hesitate to thin plants out.

In general, don't start seeds too early; don't let them wilt but don't keep constantly wet either; don't over-fertilize.

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