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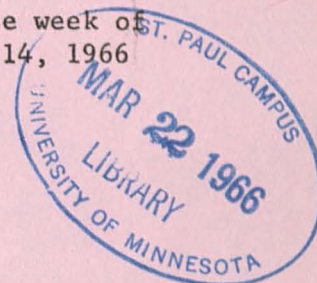
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Prepared and distributed  
by the Minnesota Agricultural  
Extension Service

For use week of  
March 14, 1966



STARTING FLOWER SEEDS INDOORS

Many gardeners like to start their choice flower seeds indoors in order to have a good supply of particular plants to set out in spring. To grow successful transplants, it is necessary to have proper containers and good light sources and to practice good watering.

\* \* \* \*

To start plants inside, use shallow wooden trays or flower pots for the initial seeding. Use a soil mixture of 3 parts garden soil, 2 parts organic matter such as peat, well-rotted manure or leaf mold and 1 part sand. After this is mixed thoroughly, it should be sifted through a quarter-inch mesh screen to remove any debris or bulky material.

\* \* \* \*

The seeds may be sown directly on the surface of the container and then covered lightly with a dusting of either sphagnum moss, commercial peat or the soil mixture. If possible, sterilize the soil by placing it in the oven for 30 minutes at a temperature of 180° F. Be sure that the soil is heated thoroughly so it is completely sterilized.

\* \* \* \*

Seed treatment with a fungicide will often help to further control damping-off problems. Such material as Aresan can be used. Only a pinch of the fungicide is necessary in the average seed packet.

\* \* \* \*

Avoid planting seeds too early. Usually such flowers as petunias and pansies should be started by mid-March. Other summer blooming annual flowers can be started by the first of April.

\* \* \* \*

Place the plants in a well lighted window. If there is heavy shading in the area, use supplementary fluorescent lighting.

Grow the seedlings at a cool temperature of 60 to 65° F. if possible.

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