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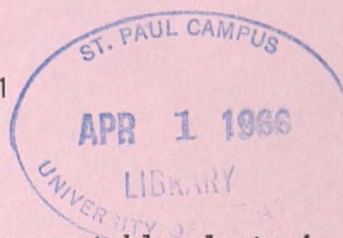
Yard 'n' Garden



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STARTING VEGETABLE SEEDS

One of the most important reasons for growing your own vegetable plants is to get the variety you want. Very often the local greenhouse or garden center does not have the newer introductions. Recently, however, commercial plant growers have made an effort to offer the newer varieties of vegetables for sale. Nevertheless, there's still satisfaction and fun in starting your own plants indoors.

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Seeds of cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, head lettuce, pepper and egg plant can be sown in early April. Tomato seeding can be delayed until April 15, since it takes only six weeks to produce a good tomato plant from seeds. Planting tomatoes indoors the middle of April will allow enough time for the development of a good transplant for setting out in the garden around Memorial Day.

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Seeds may be started in flats, boxes, plastic bands, clay pots or peat pots. The container should hold at least 3 inches of soil. A good soil mixture would contain 3 parts of garden soil, 2 parts of organic matter such as peat, compost or well rotted manure and 1 part of sand.

If you use flats or boxes, plant the seed in 2-inch rows about ½ inch deep. The seeds may be broadcast in clay pots. To eliminate any further transplanting until the seedlings are placed out in the garden, you may plant two or three seeds directly in the bands or peat pots. Cover the seeds lightly with screened sphagnum moss or washed sand.

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Keep the plants in a well lighted place where temperatures can be maintained between 60 and 65° F. Water only on mornings of clear, bright days. Keeping the soil too wet will cause the plants to damp off or rot.

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