

Mulvane Community Garden Newsletter

March 2014

VOL. 1 ISSUE #1



Stay Connected:

Join the facebook Mulvane Community Garden Group.
Watch cable channel 7 for meeting reminders.
Visit the website for photos and resources.
Spread the word to your friends!

Welcome to a new growing season and our inaugural newsletter! It is our mission to provide helpful tips and suggestions to make your garden a success and pass along any garden updates. In addition to this monthly newsletter, you will find further resources at our website.

Work Day
Saturday, March 15th at 1:00pm

In this issue:

- Starting Seeds Indoors
- What To Plant In Early Spring

Upcoming Garden Related Events:

Grow Good Food Workshop

Saturday March 22, 2014 9am – 4pm

Sedgwick County Extension Center
4-H Hall

7001 W. 21st St. N. Wichita, KS

Registration Deadline March 20, 2014

Cost \$5.00 Register Online at

<http://growgoodfood.eventbrite.com>

(Application also on our website)

mulvanecommunitygarden.weebly.com

Starting Seeds Indoors

While it may seem a daunting task, starting seeds indoors can be both economical and educational.

You will need to consider the following: *soil, containers, timing, temperature, water and light.*

Start off small by only planting a dozen or less seeds so that you do not become overwhelmed and can handle the attention starting seeds indoors requires.

Soil

- Seed-starting potting mix or compressed peat pellets (will expand w/ water)
- Sow/Plant seeds in moistened mix that is light. Soil that is too heavy or damp can hinder root growth.
- Do not pack down soil; keep loose.
- Plant a few seeds per container.

Containers

- Seed-starting kits, egg cartons, yogurt cups, cut milk cartons, old pots, etc.
- Must be clean and sterilized using 1 part bleach to 9 parts water.
- Drain holes to remove excess water
- Trays for under containers
- Plastic wrap or bags to cover pots during germination.

Timing

- Seed packets provide information regarding when to start seeds indoors and the planting depth for the seed.

Temperature

- Germination stage (sprouting from seed) will require warmth but no harsh heat.
- Place plants in a warm area. Consider on top of a refrigerator or dryer.
- Keep them covered with a plastic bag or wrap until sprouts form.
- Once sprouted, uncovered and kept at room temperature 60-70°F is best.

Water

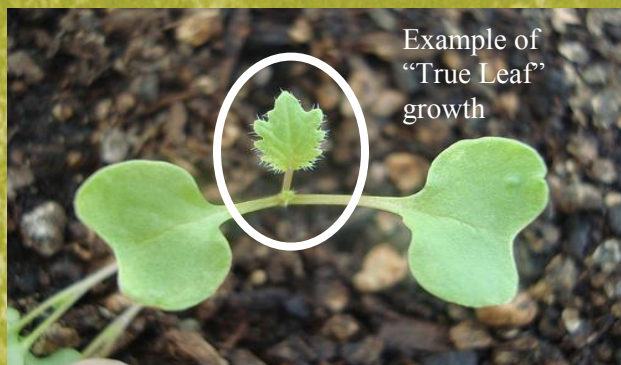
- Begin by pouring water into the tray "watering from the bottom". This helps protect the gentle plant and deter fungus growth on the top of the soil.
- Water requirements vary by plant

Light

- On a windowsill, be sure to turn your pots to encourage upright growth.
- Fluorescent indoor grow lights with adjustable height. Should be 1-4 inches above uncovered plants. (Bulbs marked daylight).
- Recommended 12-16 hrs of light per day.

Check Plants Daily

- ❖ Monitor soil moisture
- ❖ Distance of light above plants – keep within four inches so plants do not grow spindly.
- ❖ Encourage strength by gently gliding a flat hand across the top of the plants (back & forth, side to side) frequently throughout the day to simulate wind and strengthen stems.
- ❖ “Hardening Off” – Gradually introducing the plants to outdoor conditions. This will be one of the final preparations prior to transplanting outdoors.
 - Put plants out in sunlight for a few hours when conditions are favorable. Bring in each night.
 - Gradually increase the # of hours each day for about a week or so.
 - Plants are best ready for transplant when the first set of true leaves are present.
 - Initial leaves of seedlings tend to look the same. The next set of leaves to grow will look different and will be what is considered true leaves.



What to Plant Outdoors:

March

Plant	Harvest
Cabbage	Mid June – End July
Broccoli	Early June – End July
Endive	End May – End June
Cauliflower	Early June – Early July
Lettuce	End April – Mid May
Potatoes	Mid June - End July
Radish	End April – Mid May
Peas	First June - Early July
Spinach	Mid May – Mid June
Turnips	First June – Mid July
Beets	Mid June – Mid July

April

Plant	Harvest
Cabbage	Mid June – End July
Collards	Mid May – Mid June
Chard	Mid June – Mid July
Carrots	Mid June – Mid July
Broccoli	Early June – End July
Cauliflower	Early June – Early July
Lettuce	End April – Mid May
Melons	Mid July – End Sept
Potatoes	Mid June - End July
Salsify	First Sept – End Oct
Onions	First Aug – Mid Sept
Green Onions	Mid May – End June
Peas	First June - Early July
Sweet Corn	Mid July – End Sept
Spinach	Mid May – Mid June
Turnips	First June – Mid July
Beets	Mid June – Mid July