



Specializing in plants
that thrive in Central Ohio

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Six tips to start your Veggie Seeds Indoors

1

DON'T START TOO EARLY

Start most warm weather veggie seeds 6-8 weeks before the last frost date (May 15th). Cool season veggies can be started indoors 4-8 weeks before April transplanting. Check the seed packet to determine your indoor sowing date. In general, **hybrid vegetable seeds** will be easier to grow and yield more than regular seeds.

2

GROW IN A GOOD SEED STARTING MIX ONLY

We recommend the **Scotts Miracle Gro Seed Starting Mix**. Use hot water to moisten the mix in the bag, and then fill your sterilized or **new flats or pots** with this moistened mix.

3

PLANT THE SEEDS SHALLOWLY

Scatter seeds evenly over the surface or in rows. Some seeds need to be lightly covered with the mix to germinate, others do not. Check on the package to see if your seeds have any special requirements when you sow them. **Label** each kind to keep track of what you have sown.

4

SEEDS GERMINATE BEST IN WARM AND HUMID ENVIRONMENT

Loosely cover your containers with a clear plastic wrap to hold moisture until the seeds sprout. Our **humidity domes** work great to maintain the proper conditions. A heat mat placed under the plants to keep the plants at the ideal temperature of 70-75 degrees F. Use a fluorescent light for around 14 to 16 hours a day for the fastest growth. Keep the seedlings only a few inches below the lights so they don't "stretch" and get "leggy". Plants stretch because they do not have enough light to stay compact.

5

THIN THE SEEDLINGS OR TRANSPLANT THEM TO LARGER CONTAINERS

For seedlings already in pots: As the seedlings develop their first set of true leaves, begin thinning out the smaller plants, keeping the largest, healthiest seedlings. Do so by pinching off the stems at soil level so you don't disturb the plants you keep.

For seedlings in flats: Carefully dig up the little seedlings and put them in larger pots (**Peat pots** are ideal for this). Use the same moist seeding mix to fill the pots as you used in the seed flat.

6

FEED AND HARDEN OFF PLANTS

Feed plants if they become pale. **Daniels Plant Food** (organic based) will keep the plants dark green and healthy. As the seedlings grow and the temperatures rise, the plants need to be acclimated to outdoor temperatures as it gets closer the frost-free date. Place the plants outside in a semi-shady, protected spot during warm days (60's and above) and bring back in during the cooler evenings. After a week or two of acclimation and after the frost-free date (for warm weather veggies), the plants will be ready to transplant.

IF THE SEEDLINGS ARE NOT TO YOUR LIKING, COME TO WILSON'S AND CHOOSE FROM OUR HUGE SELECTION OF TOP QUALITY PLANTS.