

2023 Alumni Seed Starting Event

Here is what we will go over today: (2 min)

- Why to start seeds indoors
- When to plant seeds
- How to plant seeds
- How/when to harden off / transplant seedlings

Why start seeds indoors? (1 min)

- Timing
- Days to maturity
- To save money
- To help with seasonal depression/still get to garden while you wait for spring!

When to start seeds indoors (5 min)

- Planting calendar (Seed St. Louis planting calendar printed handouts)
- Reading seed packets

How to plant seeds (3 min demonstration)

- Demonstrate planting seeds
- Filling trays
- Pre-watering
- Making holes with pencil or tool
- Depth:
 - No deeper than twice the size of the seed
 - Read seed packet
- Humidity domes or plastic wrap
- Heat mats (optional)

Care of seedlings (5 min)

- Re-pot when plants begin to outgrow their cells or when they have 6 leaves (for most plants)
- We will be “up-potting” our trays on the first Saturday of April.
 - For this, you want a nutrient rich potting mix, such as Happy Frog and NOT soil from your yard or garden
- Hardening off
 - Bring outside in partial sun 1 hour the first day, then add an additional hour and a bit more sun each day for 7-10 days before planting outdoors
- Transplant out based on planting calendar (Print copies)
 - Last frost date in STL is April 15th, but recommend waiting until the first week in May for frost tender seedlings

Now you try! (15 min)

- Alumni select their own seeds and start what they would like

- Use painters tape or masking tape to label their trays with their name so that they can retrieve their plants later (they are also welcome to take them home and care for them themselves)

Questions? (10 min)

Resources for starting seeds indoors + Planting calendars (Handouts available)

Thanks to support from:

