TIMING SEED STARTING for the SPRING GARDEN SALE, MAY 16
and other IMPORTANT information for growers. This timeline is also useful
for growing seedlings for your own garden!

START NOW: Artichokes; sow in a large container and transplant one to a pot.
Onions, Leeks, and Shallots, or any Alliums; about seeds to a 4” or 5” pot will work
well, choose deeper pots. Herbs such as Chives, leaf Fennel, Marjoram, Parsley,
Savory, Sage and Thyme.

8 to 10 weeks: Tomatoes, peppers, basil; these all can be started in groups in large
containers and moved to individual pots after germination. You will likely need to
repot them more than once, starting with a 3” or 4” pot. Ideally, tomatoes should
end up about 12” to 16” tall in a 1 gallon pot. Basil may be one large, or several
medium, plants in a pot depending on the size of the plants; several in a pot make a
good presentation. Peppers should be one or two in a 4” or 5” pot. LABELS for
tomatoes: Variety name, hybrid or heirloom, DET or IND, type (cherry, slicer,
salad, paste etc.), color, days to maturity.

4 to 6 weeks: Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Kale, Kohlrabi, bulb Fennel; 4 to 5 in a
4” or 5” pot. Lettuces of all kinds, salad mixes; 10 to 20 plants in a 4” or 5” pot;
deep large 6 packs, 2 to 3 per cell. Beets and Chard are good in 4” to 5” pots, of at
least 12 plants. In all of the above, you can plant more seeds than needed and thin
if needed or plant a lot of seeds in a large container and transplant to smaller
pots. Extra full pots of greens will sell first!

4 to 5 weeks: Squash, Pumpkins and Cucumbers: These all can be started many
seeds to a large container and transplanted a few days after they come up to the
pot they will go to the Sale in. Handle very carefully if you transplant. All should
be 1 or 2 per 4” pot, 3 or 4 in a 5” or 6” pot. (Gallons are not desirable for these
since they require a lot of soil, are heavy and hard to handle, don’t transplant easily
and we can’t sell them for more money)

4 weeks: Dill and Cilantro; these herbs really don’t like to be transplanted, but if
you sow 6 or 8 seeds in a 4” pot we can caution customers to plant the whole pot
and not try to divide the plants out.

2 to 4 weeks: Peas and Beans: 4 to 6 plants in a 4” or 5” pot. You can plant about 5
to 7 seeds and hope for good germination, OR you can plant a lot of seeds in a flat,
or large shallow container, and then transplant the small seedlings to the 4” or 5”
pots. I don’t recommend a larger pot for these since they are too tricky to
transplant when they get large. You can pre-sprout the peas in the house between
two paper towels, then plant them right to the pots. This method DOES NOT work
at all for beans.
MORE POSSIBILITIES: ANNUALS FLOWERS, 4 or 5 weeks ahead: Sunflower, Cosmos, Marigold, Nasturtium and Zinnia. Sunflowers are VERY popular! Several plants in a 4” or 5” pot, or 2 to 3 sunflowers in a 6” pot are good. Most of these germinate quickly with some warmth.

SOIL & CONTAINERS: It is best to use seed starting soil to avoid weeds or additives that may harm seeds or seedlings. All containers should be clean and sanitized to prevent disease. Six packs are discouraged, especially small ones, since they don’t allow room to develop good root systems, plants will grow out of them very quickly and we can’t keep them adequately watered during set up. If you plan to transplant seedlings before the Sale you can start the seeds in any sort of container that suits you, be sure there are drainage holes.

❉ Please remember that for the SALE we accept only nursery containers. NO DAIRY, DELI OR SALAD containers. ❀

GENERAL LABELING: Be sure to label each seed container with the variety and the date sown; later you can make nice labels for each pot once the plants go into permanent pots. Vegetable labels don’t have the same requirements as ornamental plants. The information needed is: kind (ie. cabbage, lettuce, bean), variety name, color or size if appropriate, days to maturity. If you have a seed packet or catalog description a copy of that would be appreciated.

GENERAL TRANSPLANTING: Plants should be moved to larger pots once they start to out-grow the pots they are in. This should be done NO LATER than 2 weeks prior to the sale to allow enough time for them to recover and start growing. Water newly transplanted seedlings with a commercial transplant solution or liquid seaweed. Place them in a shaded area to recover for a day or two. All plants must be well rooted and not wilted.

REMEMBER…..WE WANT HEALTHY PLANTS IN A ‘RIGHT SIZE’ POT. This means that the plant should fit the pot: no tiny plants in giant pots or huge plants in tiny pots. ☺ If plants are wilted, sickly, bug infested or in unsuitable containers, we reserve the option to refuse them or put them on the ‘freebie table’.

NO BAD PLANTS = NO HURT FEELINGS!!

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