



S.E.E.D.S. Information Binder

Contents

Welcome!.....	8
Introductory Resources.....	9
How to Start a Vegetable Garden	9
Planting Vegetable Seeds in the Garden	11
General Tips	11
Veggie-Specific Tips.....	11
Starting Vegetable Seeds Indoors	11
Winter Sowing.....	12
Steps 1-3: Getting Ready.....	12
Steps 4-8: Heading Outside.....	12
Growing Vegetables in Containers	13
What can I grow in a container garden?.....	13
Best location for a container garden	13
Words of caution about container gardening	14
Seed Viability List – When Do Seeds Expire?	15
Veggie seeds	15
Herb seeds	15
Native Plant Seeds	15
Resources	16
Questions & Answers.....	16
Upcoming Library Programs	17
Fruits and Vegetables	18
Brassicas	18
What is a brassica?.....	18
Broccoli.....	18
Broccoli Raab.....	18
Brussels Sprouts	18
Cabbage	18

Collard Greens.....	18
Cauliflower	18
Kale.....	18
Mustard Greens	19
Radish.....	19
Rutabaga	19
Turnip	19
Root Veggies	19
Orange Carrots.....	19
Rainbow Carrots.....	19
Onions	19
Other Root Veggies	20
The Rest.....	20
Beans and Peas	20
Cucumbers	20
Melons	21
Bell Peppers	21
Hot Peppers	21
Tomatoes	21
Salad Greens	22
Summer Squash	23
Winter Squash.....	23
Some Other Fruits & Veggies	23
Herbs & Spices	25
What’s the difference between herbs and spices?	25
Sowing Herb Seeds.....	25
Basil	26
Common.....	26
Flavored	26

Catgrass	26
Catnip	26
Chamomile	26
Chives	26
Garlic Chives.....	26
Cilantro (Coriander)	26
Cumin	26
Curled Cress	26
Dill	27
Fennel.....	27
Lavender.....	27
Lemon Balm	27
Marjoram	27
Mint.....	27
Oregano	27
Parsley.....	27
Rosemary	27
Sage	27
Summer Savory	27
Tarragon.....	28
Thyme	28
Maryland Native Plants.....	29
What is a native plant?	29
Why should I grow native plants?.....	29
Stratification & Native Plants.....	29
Native Flowers	30
<i>Achillea millefolium</i> (Common Yarrow)	30
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i> (Eastern Red Columbine)	30
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> (Butterfly Milkweed).....	30

<i>Baptisia australis</i> (Blue False Indigo)	30
<i>Bidens aristosa</i> (Tickseed Sunflower)	30
<i>Boehmeria cylindrica</i> (False Nettle)	30
<i>Callicarpa americana</i> (American Beautyberry)	30
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i> (Common Buttonbush)	30
<i>Conoclinium coelestinum</i> (Blue Mistflower)	31
<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i> (Lanceleaf Coreopsis)	31
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i> (Purple Coneflower)	31
<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i> (Rattlesnake Master)	31
<i>Eupatorium hyssopifolium</i> (Hyssop-Leaved Thoroughwort)	31
<i>Eutrochium purpureum</i> (Purple Joe Pye Weed)	31
<i>Helenium autumnale</i> (Common Sneezeweed)	31
<i>Helenium flexuosum</i> (Purplehead Sneezeweed)	31
<i>Hibiscus moscheuto</i> (Swamp Rose Mallow)	32
<i>Hypericum prolificum</i> (Shrubby St. John's Wort)	32
<i>Liatris ligulistylis</i> (Meadow Blazing Star)	32
<i>Liatris spicata</i> (Dense Blazing Star)	32
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i> (Cardinal Flower)	32
<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i> (Great Blue Lobelia)	32
<i>Ludwigia alternifolia</i> (Seedbox)	32
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i> (Wild Bergamot)	32
<i>Monarda punctata</i> (Spotted Bee Balm)	32
<i>Oenothera biennis</i> (Evening Primrose)	33
<i>Oenothera fruticose</i> (Narrow-leaved Sundrops)	33
<i>Penstemon digitalis</i> (Foxglove Beardtongue)	33
<i>Penstemon hirsutus</i> (Hairy Beardtongue)	33
<i>Physostegia virginiana</i> (Obedient Plant)	33
<i>Pycnanthemum muticum</i> (Short-toothed Mountain Mint)	33
<i>Pycnanthemum tenuifolium</i> (Slender Mountain Mint)	33

<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i> (American Mountain Mint)	33
<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i> (Orange Coneflower).....	34
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i> (Black Eyed Susan)	34
<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i> (Cutleaf Coneflower)	34
<i>Rudbeckia triloba</i> (Brown Eyed Susan)	34
<i>Salvia lyrata</i> (Lyreleaf Sage)	34
<i>Senna marilandica</i> (Maryland Senna).....	34
<i>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</i> (Blue-Eyed Grass)	34
<i>Solidago caesia</i> (Blue-Stemmed Goldenrod)	34
<i>Solidago odora</i> (Sweet Goldenrod).....	35
<i>Solidago speciosa</i> (Showy Goldenrod).....	35
<i>Symphyotrichum laeve</i> (Smooth Blue Aster)	35
<i>Symphyotrichum novae-angliae</i> (New England Aster)	35
<i>Verbena hastata</i> (Blue Vervain).....	35
<i>Verbesina occidentalis</i> (Yellow Crownsbeard).....	35
<i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i> (New York Ironweed).....	35
<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i> (Culver's Root)	35
<i>Yucca filamentosa</i> (Adam's Needle)	36
Native Grasses.....	36
<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i> (Northern Sea Oats)	36
<i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i> (Purple Love Grass)	36
<i>Panicum virgatum</i> (Switch Grass)	36
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> (Little Blue Stem).....	36
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i> (Indian Grass)	36
What's in a Name?	37
Non-Native Flowers & Plants	38
Non-Native Flowers	38
Alyssum	38
Cosmos	38

Gypsophila	38
Helichrysum	38
Marigold	38
Nasturtium	38
Petunia	38
Poppy	38
Snapdragon	38
Sunflower	39
Sweet William	39
Zinnia.....	39
Non-Native Plants	39
Sorghum	39
Glossary.....	40

Welcome!

Our mission is to bring the members of our community together and give them access to free seeds and the information they will need to grow their own plants. We hope to cultivate a flourishing network of gardeners, plant enthusiasts and avid learners who are dedicated to the sharing of seeds and knowledge.

The information in this binder is meant to be used as a resource for our fully-stocked inventory. Please refer to the order form for the most up-to-date list of our available seeds.

To be able to provide a consistent supply of seeds to the community, we limit the number of seed packets a customer can take at one time

We extend our utmost appreciation toward our donating organizations: Lowe's Home Improvement of California, MD, Wild Ones Chesapeake Bay, the St. Mary's County Community Development Corporation, and the University of Maryland Extension Master Gardeners.

Introductory Resources

How to Start a Vegetable Garden

STEP 1 - Plan your garden

- Will you grow vegetables and herbs in containers or in garden soil?
- Will you create an in-ground garden, or perhaps use raised beds?
- Start small and expand when you are ready. A good starter size is 50-75 sq. Ft.
- Grow vegetables that you like to eat and are expensive to buy. Some of the easiest vegetables are bush bean, tomato, cucumber, pepper, lettuce, summer squash, and leafy greens (Swiss chard, kale, mustard, etc.).
- Place taller crops on the north and west sides so they will not shade shorter plants.
- Group plants by what season they grow in and how long they take to come to maturity.
- Early, short-season crops, like lettuce, can give way to late-season crops after harvest.

STEP 2 - Select your site

- Your garden should be on level ground in a spot that gets at least 6 hours of full sun a day (preferably more).
- Avoid trees, shrubs, and buildings where possible.
- Make sure you have access to every part of your garden—include paths.
- Easy access to water is essential.
- Know your local animal population and fence as needed.

STEP 3 - Prepare your soil

- Vegetable garden soil should be deep and crumbly, should drain well, and should contain plenty of organic matter.
- Have your soil tested to determine nutrient levels and pH, and to be sure it is safe to plant in (less than 400 ppm of lead).
- Turn under or remove the grass sod but do not dispose of it as sod contains valuable topsoil and organic matter. You can also kill the grass by covering it with sections of cardboard or newspaper and then covering that with a 2 to 4-inch layer of compost.
- Add at least two inches of compost on top of your soil and dig it in. Continue to add a thin layer of compost every time you plant.
- You can fill a new raised bed with purchased topsoil and compost.
- Raised beds may either be surrounded by an enclosure or built up with sloped sides and no enclosure.

STEP 4 - Plant your crops

- View the information about the vegetable you are interested in growing to determine whether a particular vegetable is best direct-seeded in the ground or whether its seeds have to be planted indoors and grown to transplant size. You can buy seeds and transplants from local stores.
- If you buy seedlings to transplant, make sure they look healthy and are not so overgrown that roots encircle the bottom of the pot. Transplants raised inside your home or in a greenhouse should be exposed gradually to outdoor temperatures and conditions; this is called “hardening off.”
- Transplant on a cloudy, calm afternoon if possible, and water well; handle plants carefully and make sure there is adequate room for the roots in the planting hole.

STEP 5 - Take care of your garden

- Water deeply around the base of your vegetable plants, as necessary, to keep the roots systems moist. Frequent, shallow watering is good for newly planted seeds—not mature plants.
- Water in the morning when possible. Use a soaker hose or drip irrigation system to reduce water use.
- Fertilize as necessary based on your soil test recommendations, fertilizer label instructions, and the needs of your different crops.
- Control weeds by laying down organic mulches, slicing or chopping weeds with a hoe, and hand-pulling. Start early, as soon as weeds appear.
- Support tomato, pepper, and cucumber plants with stakes or trellises to save space.
- Monitor plants regularly for problems. Learn to take an integrated pest management (IPM) approach to any plant or pest problem. If you need assistance send your question with digital photos to Ask Extension.
- Vegetables and herbs can be grown successfully in Maryland gardens without chemical pesticides.

STEP 6 - Harvest and enjoy!

*Author: Erica Smith, University of Maryland Extension Master Gardener
Revised: April 2020*

Planting Vegetable Seeds in the Garden

- Step 1 - Consult the back of the seed packet for guidance on when to plant seeds in the ground;
- Step 2 - A good rule of thumb is to sow seeds 2 to 3 times deeper than their width;
- Step 3 - Sow seeds more deeply in light, sandy soil and less deeply in heavier, clay soils;
- Step 4 - Firm the soil over your seeds to hasten germination. Some gardeners lay boards or row covers over newly planted seed during warm weather to keep the bed moist. You must check daily for signs of germination

General Tips

- With cloddy or crusty soils, it may be helpful to apply a narrow band of fine compost or vermiculite over the row after seeds are planted. This will hold soil moisture and reduce crusting, making it easier for seedlings to push through the soil surface;
- Soil temperature has a major effect on the speed of germination. In the spring, the soil is often cold, and large seeds (i.e., corn and beans) may rot before they can sprout

Veggie-Specific Tips

- **Corn** and **beans** are often planted in single rows, whereas cucurbit (**cucumber, squash**) are sometimes planted 4 to 6 seeds to a hill or mound;
- Crops such as **spinach, peas, beets, lettuce, and carrots** are often sown in wide rows or beds instead of in long single rows. Sow seed evenly over the area, then rake in gently;
- Large seeds, such as **pumpkin, squash, bean, and corn**, can usually be planted at the correct spacing (indicated on a seed packet). It is much more difficult to precisely plant small seeds. You should expect to thin out excess seedlings later to achieve the desired spacing.

Starting Vegetable Seeds Indoors

- STEP 1 - Set up your lighting system
 - Your baby plants will generally need more light than your average indoor lights can provide;
- STEP 2 - Choose containers and prepare growing medium
 - Almost any clean container can be used for seed starting, as long as it has good drainage and is at least 2" deep.
 - Save money by reusing milk jugs, yogurt containers, clear clamshell containers, etc.
- STEP 3 - Prepare growing medium
 - Growing media have three main functions:
 - Supply roots with nutrients, air, and water
 - Allow for maximum root growth
 - Physically support the plant
 - Seeds will be more successful in a specialized growing medium - not just regular ole dirt

- Add warm water to your dry growing medium until it is moist like a wrung-out sponge - not sopping wet
- STEP 4 - Fill containers
 - Add moistened media to container and even it out, tamping down lightly
 - Fill to within ¾" from the top
- STEP 5 - Mark your rows (optional)
 - Use a ruler or straight-edge to create furrows
 - Seedlings grown in rows are easier to label and handle at transplanting time
- STEP 6 – Plant
 - Sow seeds thinly and uniformly in the rows
 - Lightly cover the seeds with growing medium and press down gently
- STEP 7 - Nurture your seedlings until they are ready to transplant

Winter Sowing

Winter sowing is an easy way to grow seedlings. By planting in the middle of winter, you'll have a jump-start on your gardening season come spring!

Steps 1-3: Getting Ready

- STEP 1- Prepare your container
 - Almost any clean container can be used for seed starting, as long as it lets in light
 - Save money by reusing milk jugs, yogurt containers, clear clamshell containers, etc.
 - Make 5-6 drainage holes in the bottom of your container
 - When working with plastic, you can use a drill or melt holes with the tip of a hot glue gun
 - Cut the container in half. If possible, leave the handle attached as a hinge
- STEP 2 - Fill your container
 - Place a small square of newspaper at the bottom of your container to prevent soil from falling through
 - Fill & press in about 4 inches of moist growing medium in the bottom of the jug
 - Add warm water to your dry growing medium until it is moist like a wrung-out sponge - not sopping wet
 - Sow seeds according to packet instructions or distribute evenly across the soil
 - Sprinkle water over top to moisten soil
- STEP 3 - Seal your container
 - Use duct tape to reseal your container

Steps 4-8: Heading Outside

- STEP 4 - Place your container outside
 - Find a sunny spot where your container will be exposed to rain & snow
 - Keep your container safe from pets, wild animals, young children, and clumsy friends
- STEP 5 - And now.. we wait

- Do not bring your container indoors
- Water if container feels light
- Your seeds will sprout when nature tells them to
- Wait until you see 1-2 sets of “true leaves” or until seedling is 2 inches tall
- STEP 6 - Transplant
 - Open containers to acclimate 2-3 days before transplanting
 - Work in a cool, shady place to prevent roots from drying out
 - Place individual seedlings in pots or transplant directly into the ground
- STEP 7 - Nurture
 - Provide shade for the first 1-2 weeks after transplanting
 - Transplanting disturbs roots, which impacts the plants’ water absorption
 - If seedlings start to wilt in the sun, keep them in the shade longer
 - Incorporate seedlings into your regular garden care
- STEP 8 - Enjoy watching your seedlings grow!

Winter Sowing instructions modified from “All the Dirt on Winter Sowing” by Marlene Smith, President of Wild Ones Chesapeake Bay & Molly Moore, President of Southern Maryland Audubon

Growing Vegetables in Containers

What can I grow in a container garden?

Just about any vegetable or herb! Some of the more popular container crops are salad greens, peppers, eggplant, tomatoes, beans, chard, beets, radish, squash, and cucumbers.

- More challenging crops include melons, corn, potatoes, and sweet potatoes. The key is to experiment.
- Look for “bush” or “dwarf” varieties of the crops you want to grow. There are quite a few tomato and cucumber varieties bred for small-space gardening.
- New gardeners should start small in the first year.

Best location for a container garden

- Containers can be placed on any level surface — decks, balconies, and along driveways and sidewalks. You can also set them on bare ground and allow the plant roots to grow down into the soil or place them on top of a mulched area.
- Plants also be grown in hanging baskets and window boxes.
- Southern and western exposures will be the sunniest and warmest, while northern and eastern exposures will be shadier and cooler.
- You’ll need 6-8 hours of direct sun for warm-season crops (tomato, pepper, eggplant, squash) and 3-5 hours of direct sun for cool-season crops (lettuce, spinach, Asian greens).

- Easy access to water is crucial. Some containers will need watering every day when the weather is hot and dry.
- Consider the microclimate in the container garden area. Watch out for heat sinks created by brick, concrete, and reflective surfaces

Words of caution about container gardening

- Containers and the water that drains from them can mark and stain concrete and wood decking. Using self-watering containers or plastic saucers to catch water will prevent this problem (and is very helpful if you are gardening “above” your neighbor’s balcony.)
- The lighter weight of large plastic containers leads gardeners to believe they can be moved easily. But a 20-inch diameter container filled with moist growing medium and plants can weigh 100 lbs! (You can buy or make plant caddies to make heavy containers portable.)

Seed Viability List – When Do Seeds Expire?

*Average years when stored in optimal cool, dry, dark conditions

Veggie seeds

Bean: 2-3 years
Beet: 3-5 years
Brassicas*: 3-5 years
Carrot: 2-3 years
Chard: 3-5 years
Corn: 2-3 years
Cucumber: 5-10 years
Eggplant: 2-3 years
Okra: 2 years
Onions: 1 year
Lettuce: 2-3 years
Melon: 3-5 years
Mustard: 4 years
Pea: 2-3 years
Pepper: 2-3 years
Radish: 3-5 years
Spinach: 2-3 years
Squash: 2-6 years
Tomato: 5-10 years
*Brassicas: broccoli, broccoli raab, brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, collard greens, kale, and more!

Herb seeds

Basil: 5 years
Cat Grass: 3 years
Chives: 1-2 years
Cilantro: 5 years
Cumin: 1-3 years
Dill: 5 years
Fennel: 3-4 years
Lavender: 4 years
Paprika: 2 years
Parsley: 1 year
Peppermint: 4 years
Sage: 2 years
Summer Savory: 1-4 years

Native Plant Seeds

Achillea millefolium
(Common Yarrow): 3-5 years
Cephalanthus occidentalis
(Buttonbush): 1-2 years
Echinacea purpurea
(Purple Coneflower): 2-4 years
Eragrostis spectabilis
(Purple Love Grass): 2-3 years
Helenium autumnale
(Common Sneezeweed): 4 years
Hypericum prolificum
(Shrubby St. John's Wort): 2-3 years
Panicum virgatum (Switch Grass): 2-3 years
Pycnanthemum spp
(Mountain Mints): 4 years
Salvia lyrata (Lyreleaf Sage): 1-2 years

Schizachyrium scoparium
(Little Bluestem): 2-3 years
Sorghastrum nutans
(Indian Grass): 2-3 years
Symphyotrichum laeve
(Smooth Blue Aster): 1-2 years
Veronicastrum virginicum
(Culver's Root): unknown
Yucca filamentosa (Adam's Needle Yucca): 4 years

Sources:

Clear Creek Seeds, *Seed Viability Chart*
Chicago Botanic Garden, *Seed Viability Chart*
University of Maryland
Master Gardeners of Placer County, *Saving Seed*

Resources

[2023 USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map – Maryland & District of Columbia \(PNG file\)](#)

- St. Mary's County is both 7B and 8A

[Learn more about the Master Gardener Program](#)

[How to start a vegetable garden](#)

[Vegetable planting calendar](#)

[Starting seeds in containers](#)

[Poor germination of vegetable seeds](#)

[Looking to answer a really specific question? Ask UMD Extension!](#)

Looking for a book? Check out our collection of gardening books in the 635s of our non-fiction section.

Questions & Answers

When can I come back to get more seeds?

- Community members are invited to use the Seed Library once every season: December - January; March - April; June - July; September - October
- The Seed Library will be closed to the public for one month between each season (February, May, August, November) for restocking

Can I request multiple packs of the same species?

- To maintain our varied supply for the community, we will not be providing multiple packets of the same category to customers

Do you accept seed donations?

- Yes! Thank you for your consideration. You may drop off donations at any of our three Library buildings.

Will you be getting different seeds? Do you take requests?

- All of our seeds have been generously donated, which means our supply depends on what we get! We cannot guarantee the same species every season, but we would love to hear what kinds of plants you're most interested in!
- The native plant species have been specifically chosen to be able to be planted in current weather conditions. Stay tuned for different types for spring vs winter!

Why are these seeds not in commercial seed packets?

- Commercial seed packets often have more seeds than the average individual uses for their personal garden. To stretch our supply of seeds while still meeting the needs of most, we have divided up commercial seed packets into multiple packets.

- Our native plants are not commercial – they have been collected from local sites, including our own Front Yard at Leonardtown.

Why do you have the botanical names instead of the common names for native plants, but not for veggies?

- Using the botanical name of a plant helps to avoid confusion, especially when several species share common names.
- We are not using the botanical name for the vegetables and herbs because there are a variety of species, subspecies, and cultivars, and generalizing the categories helps us have a more consistent supply.

Who can I ask for more information about the Seed Library?

- Check in with your local Library for more information, or email_nbega@stmalib.org
- We would also love to hear about any success stories! Send us your photos!

Upcoming Library Programs

[Check out the Seed Library page on our website!](#) Scroll to the bottom to see our upcoming programs related to gardening!

Fruits and Vegetables

Brassicas

What is a brassica?

Brassica vegetables, also called cruciferous vegetables, are part of a large family of plants, commonly known as the mustard family. Many plant species in this family are edible!

Did you know?

Broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, collards, kale, and kohlrabi are all the same plant species? *Brassica oleracea*!

Seriously! They have all been developed over time from the species' original form: wild cabbage

Broccoli

- Edible florets & stems, good cooked or raw
- Days to germination: 10-15
- Days to harvest: 70-90
- Planting: ½ inch depth, 3' x 2' apart
- Planting time: March-April & June-July

Broccoli Raab

- Small, flavorful florets
- Days to germination: 7-21
- Days to harvest: 55
- Planting: ½ inch depth, 1' x 1.5' apart
- Planting time: March-April & Sept.-Oct

Brussels Sprouts

- Tender, small heads
- Days to germination: 7-14
- Days to harvest: 85-110
- Planting: ¼ inch depth, 3' x 2' apart
- Planting time: March-April & June-July

Cabbage

- Sweet, tender leaves
- Days to germination: 7-12
- Days to harvest: 90-110

- Planting: ¼ inch depth, 2' x 3' apart
- Planting time: Mar.-Apr. & Aug.-Sept.

Collard Greens

- Mild, earthy flavor, chewy leaves
- Days to germination: 5-8
- Days to harvest: 60-70
- Planting: ½ inch depth, 1' x 1' apart
- Planting time: April-August

Cauliflower

- Tender, mild florets
- Some cultivars can be other colors, even purple!
- Days to germination: 8-10
- Days to harvest: 60-70
- Planting: ½ inch depth, 3' x 2' apart
- Planting time: Mar.-Apr. & Jun.-Jul.

Kale

- Dense, curly leaves
- Days to germination: 10-21
- Days to harvest: 55
- Planting: ¼ inch depth, 1.5' x 2' apart
- Planting time: March-April & August-September

Mustard Greens

- Peppery salad green
- Days to germination: 4-8
- Days to harvest: 21-40
- Planting: ¼ inch depth, 1' x 1.5' apart
- Planting time: April-August

Radish

- Crisp, sometimes slightly spicy root vegetable
- Some cultivars can be purple, white, or even black!
- Days to germination: 4-7
- Days to harvest: 22
- Planting: ½ inch depth, 12" x 1" apart
- Planting time: March-May & August

Rutabaga

- Sweet, turnip-like root vegetable
- Days to germination: 3-10
- Days to harvest: 90
- Planting: ½ inch depth, 12" x 2" apart
- Planting time: March-April & July-August

Turnip

- Hearty, versatile root vegetable
- Days to germination: 7-10
- Days to harvest: 55
- Planting: ½ inch depth, 18" x 5" apart
- Planting time: March-April & July-August

Root Veggies

Orange Carrots

- Crunchy, sweet carrot
- Days to germination: 7-21
- Days to harvest: 75

- Planting: ½ inch depth, 15" x 20" apart
- Planting time: April-July

Rainbow Carrots

- Can be orange, yellow, red, purple, & more!
- Days to germination: 10-15
- Days to harvest: 67
- Planting: ¼ - ½ inch depth, 15" x 3" apart
- Planting time: April-July

Tip: Carrot greens make for a tasty pesto, salad ingredient, or garnish!

Onions

Red Onion

- Can be eaten cooked or raw
- Days to germination: 10-12
- Days to harvest: 100
- Planting: ½ inch depth, 18" x 3" apart
- Planting time: February-April

Yellow Onion

- Can be orange, yellow, red, purple, & more!
- Days to germination: 10-15
- Days to harvest: 67
- Planting: ¼ - ½ inch depth, 15" x 3" apart
- Planting time: April-July

Scallion

- Crisp, bunching onion
- Days to germination: 10-12
- Days to harvest: 60-65
- Planting: ½ inch depth, 12" x 2" apart
- Planting time: March-May

Other Root Veggies

Beet

- Earthy, unique root vegetable
- Days to germination: 6-8
- Days to harvest: 58
- Planting: 1-inch depth, 1.5' x 4" apart
- Planting time: March-May & August

Celeriac

- Celery taste with a touch of sweetness & nuttiness
- Days to germination: 14-21
- Days to harvest: 105-120
- Planting: ¼ inch depth, 18" x 24" apart
- Planting time: March-May

Parsnip

- Closely related to carrots
- Days to germination: 14-21
- Days to harvest: 105-115
- Planting: ½ inch depth, 6" x 6" apart
- Planting time: April

The Rest

Beans and Peas

Black-Eyed Pea & Cowpea Bean

- Harvest dry; good in soups & stews
- Days to germination: 7-10
- Days to harvest: 80
- Planting: 1 inch depth, 3' x 3" apart
- Planting time: May-June

Garden Bean

- Classic crisp green bean
- Days to germination: 6-8
- Days to harvest: 55
- Planting: 1 – 1½ inch depth, 20" x 4" apart

- Planting time: May-June

Lima Bean

- Plump, tender beans
- Days to germination: 6-8
- Days to harvest: 65-85
- Planting: 1 – 1½ inch depth, 20" x 4" apart
- Planting time: May-June

Snow & Sweet Peas

- Crisp pods, sweet peas
- Days to germination: 8-12
- Days to harvest: 60-65
- Planting: 1½ inch depth, 2' x 2" apart
- Planting time: Feb.-April & Late July

Soybean

- Versatile, high-protein bean
- Days to germination: 10-14
- Days to harvest: 65-75 days
- Planting: 1 inch depth, 4" x 6" apart
- Planting time: May – June

Cucumbers

English Cucumber

- Long, non-bitter cucumber
- Days to germination: 7-14
- Days to harvest: 52
- Planting: ½ inch depth, 2' x 15" apart
- Planting time: April-July

American Cucumber

- Crunchy, slightly bitter, slicing vegetable. Typically served raw
- Days to germination: 8-10
- Days to harvest: 60
- Planting: ½ inch depth, 2' x 15" apart
- Planting time: April-July

Pickling Cucumber

- Perfect for pickling
- Days to germination: 7-14
- Days to harvest: 50-55
- Planting: 1-inch depth, 1' x 6" apart
- Planting time: April-July

Melons

Cantaloupe

- Juicy orange melon
- Days to germination: 7
- Days to harvest: 70-90
- Planting: ½ inch depth, 4' x 4' apart
- Planting time: May-June

Muskmelon

- Sweet orange or green melon; similar to cantaloupe and honeydew
- Days to germination: 7
- Days to harvest: 80-90
- Planting: ½ inch depth, 4' x 4' apart
- Planting time: May-June

Watermelon

- Juicy red/pink melon
- Days to germination: 6-8
- Days to harvest: 95-105
- Planting: 1-inch depth, 5' x 6' apart
- Planting time: May-June

Bell Peppers

- Can be green, red, orange, yellow, or somewhere in between!
- Crisp and sweet
- Days to germination: 10-14
- Days to harvest: 65-85
- Planting: ¼ inch depth, 2' x 2' apart
- Planting time: March-May

Hot Peppers

- Includes types like Joe E Parker (mild),

- Portugal (medium), and Habañero (hot)
- Range in level of spiciness
- Days to germination: 10-14
- Days to harvest: 65-85
- Planting: ¼ inch depth, 2' x 2' apart
- Planting time: March-May

Tip: Generally, the longer you leave a pepper to ripen, the hotter it will be!

Tomatoes

Beefsteak

- Good slicing tomato
- Indeterminate (continuous growth)
- Days to germination: 7-10
- Planting depth: 1/4 inch
- Days to harvest: 80
- Spacing: 2' x 2.5'
- Planting time: April-June

Cherry

- Good snacking tomato
- Indeterminate (continuous growth)
- Days to germination: 7-10
- Planting depth: 1/4 inch
- Days to harvest: 70
- Spacing: 3' x 2'
- Planting time: April-June

Roma

- Good sauce tomato
- Determinate (set growth)
- Days to germination: 7-10
- Planting depth: 1/4 inch
- Days to harvest: 80
- Spacing: 3' x 2'
- Planting time: April-June

Heirloom

- Generally liked for their robust flavor
- Mostly indeterminate (continuous growth)
- Days to germination: 7-10
- Planting depth: 1/4 inch
- Days to harvest: varies
- Spacing: 3' x 2'
- Planting time: April-June

What is an “heirloom” vegetable variety?

Heirlooms are species of plants that have stayed the same for dozens (if not hundreds) of years.

- Most agree that an heirloom variety must have been around before the first hybrid vegetables were introduced (in 1951)
- Heirloom varieties are open-pollinated, which means the seeds grown from an heirloom variety will be true to their parent plant (with certain exceptions to this rule)

Why should I grow an “heirloom” vegetable?

Many argue that heirloom varieties offer the best flavor as compared to their commercial counterparts. Being “open-pollinated” means that the seeds collected from the heirloom varieties you grow will yield the same great results next growing season! Be on the lookout for upcoming Library workshops on best practices for seed saving.

University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Center for Agriculture, Food, and the Environment,
[*Heirloom Vegetable Varieties*](#)

Salad Greens

Arugula

- Spicy; our cultivar (Apollo) has a large leaf and fewer lobes
- Days to germination: 5-7
- Days to harvest: 40-60
- Planting: ¼ inch depth, 6” x 6” apart
- Planting time: March-May & July-September

Butterhead Lettuce

- Tender, loose-leaf lettuce
- Some cultivars are speckled or red
- Days to germination: 7-14
- Days to harvest: 57
- Planting: ¼ inch depth, 1’x1.5’ apart
- Planting time: March-April & July-August

Loose-Leaf Lettuce

- Crisp, mild lettuce
- Days to germination: 7-10
- Days to harvest: 40-60
- Planting: ¼ inch depth, 1’ x 1.5’ apart
- Planting time: March-April & July-August

Romaine Lettuce

- Lettuce with a great crunch
- Some cultivars are speckled or red
- Days to germination: 7-10
- Days to harvest: 30-60
- Planting: ¼ inch depth, 1.5’x1.5’ apart
- Planting time: March-April & July-August

Spinach

- Thick, buttery leaf, some crinkly cultivars
- Days to germination: 5-7
- Days to harvest: 45
- Planting: ½ inch depth, 12" x 6" apart
- Planting time: March-April & July-August

Summer Squash

Luffa

- Unique summer squash that is both edible and can be used as a sponge when mature fruit is dried
- Days to germination: 3-10
- Days to harvest: 90-130
- Planting: 1 inch depth, 1.5' x 2' apart
- Planting time: April-June

Summer Squash

- Eat this yellow squash cooked or raw
- Days to germination: 7-10
- Days to harvest: 53
- Planting: 1-inch depth, 3' x 4' apart
- Planting time: May-July

Zucchini

- Eat this summer squash cooked or raw
- Days to germination: 8-10
- Days to harvest: 50
- Planting: 1-inch depth, 4' x 1' apart
- Planting time: May-July

Winter Squash

Acorn Squash

- Hearty winter squash, great for roasting
- Days to germination: 5-10
- Days to harvest: 75-80

- Planting: 1 inch depth, 3" x 24" apart
- Planting time: April-June

Butternut Squash

- Hearty winter squash, great for roasting
- Days to germination: 7-14
- Days to harvest: 75-85
- Planting: 1-inch depth, 4" x 7' apart
- Planting time: April-June

Pumpkin

- Perfect for carving; roast the seeds and slices of the hull
- Days to germination: 7-10
- Days to harvest: 100
- Planting: 1 - 1 ½ inch depth, 8' x 8' apart
- Planting time: (Late) April-July

Spaghetti Squash

- Hearty winter squash, healthy substitute for spaghetti
- Days to germination: 10-14
- Days to harvest: 100
- Planting: 1-inch depth, 6' x 6' apart
- Planting time: April-May

Some Other Fruits & Veggies

Asparagus

- Perennial stem vegetable, tender crowns
- Days to germination: 14-21
- Days to harvest: 725-730
- Planting: ½ inch depth, 2' x 2' apart
- Planting time: May

Celery

- Fibrous, edible stalks
- Days to germination: 14-21
- Days to harvest: 100-125
- Planting: ¼ inch depth, 8" x 8" apart
- Planting time: March-April & July

Eggplant

- Mild flavor, pairs well with bold sauces/seasonings
- Days to germination: 10-114
- Days to harvest: 75-85
- Planting: ¼ inch depth, 3' x 1.5' apart
- Planting time: April-May

Leek

- Sweet, tender stems
- Days to germination: 10-15
- Days to harvest: 150
- Planting: ½ inch depth, 15" x 4" apart
- Planting time: April

Okra

- Mild, almost grassy flavor.
- Can be crunchy or tender, depending on cooking method
- Days to germination: 10-14
- Days to harvest: 55-65
- Planting: ¾ inch depth, 3' x 1.5' apart
- Planting time: May-June

Strawberry

- Sweet & juicy red fruit
- Days to germination: 9-12
- Days to harvest: 90-110
- Planting: ⅛ -¼ inch depth, 8" x 3" apart
- Planting time: April-June

Swiss Chard

- Earthy, pleasantly bitter taste
- Days to germination: 7-10
- Days to harvest: 30-60
- Planting: ¾ inch depth, 18" x 6" apart
- Planting time: April-July

Sweet Corn

- Large ears, white kernels
- Days to germination: 7-10
- Days to harvest: 80-100
- Planting: ½ inch depth, 3' x 20" apart
- Planting time: May-July

Herbs & Spices

What's the difference between herbs and spices?

Herbs and spices are both obtained from plants and are primarily used for adding flavor to food. The difference comes down to which part of the plant is used.

Herbs:

- Come from the leaves of herbaceous (non-woody) plants
- Native to temperate climates
- Often used in larger amounts

Spices:

- Can come from roots, flowers, fruits, seeds, or bark
- Native to warm, tropical climates
- Often used in smaller amounts due to their stronger potency
- Some can be used as a preservative

Fun Fact: Some plants can be both! The leaves of cilantro can be used as an herb, while the seeds (coriander) can be used as a spice!

Iowa State University Extension, *What is the difference between an herb and a spice?*

Sowing Herb Seeds

Nearly all herbs can be grown from seed (some are easier than others)!

Sowing Your Seeds:

1. Before sowing seed work the soil surface to a fine texture and wet it slightly.
2. Make a shallow trench, plant the seeds and firm the soil over them. Generally the finer the seed the shallower it is planted but follow packet directions.
3. After planting, water with a fine mist of water

Tips:

- Some herbs such as lavender seeds can be tricky to germinate.
- Sow anise, borage, coriander (cilantro), dill, and fennel directly in the garden since they do not transplant well.
- Basil, parsley, sage, marjoram, and many other herbs can be started indoors and planted outside after the danger of frost has passed.
- Fine seeds, such as marjoram or thyme will spread more evenly if you mix them with sand before planting.

Basil

Common

- Classic, flavorful basil; can be purple or spicy
- Days to germination: 5-10
- Days to harvest: 85
- Planting: ¼ inch depth, 10" x 10" apart
- Planting time: April-July

Flavored

- Variety of flavors, including anise, cinnamon, and citrus; great for teas
- Days to germination: 5-10
- Days to harvest: 85
- Planting: ¼ inch depth, 1' x 1' apart
- Planting time: April-July

Catgrass

- Fun (and safe) for cats!
- Days to germination: 5-15
- Days to harvest: 80
- Planting: ¼ inch depth, broadcast
- Planting time: April-July

Catnip

- Perennial herb, treat for cats
- Days to germination: 8-12
- Days to harvest: 70-75
- Planting: ¼ inch depth, 20" x 20" apart
- Planting time: April-July

Chamomile

- Flowers commonly used for herbal teas
- Days to germination: 7-14
- Days to harvest: 80
- Planting: no depth, 6" x 6" apart
- Planting time: April-July

Chives

- Mild, onion-flavored plant
- Days to germination: 15-21
- Days to harvest: 80
- Planting: ¼ inch depth, 6" x 6" apart
- Planting time: April-August

Garlic Chives

- Mild, garlic-flavored plant
- Days to germination: 15-21
- Days to harvest: 80
- Planting: ¼ inch depth, 6" x 6" apart
- Planting time: April-August

Cilantro (Coriander)

- Edible leaves and seeds
- Days to germination: 7-10
- Days to harvest: 70
- Planting: ¼ inch depth, 6" x 6" apart
- Planting time: April-July

Cumin

- Flavorful seeds
- Days to germination: 7-10
- Days to harvest: 120
- Planting: ¼ inch depth, 6" x 6" apart
- Planting time: April-May

Curled Cress

- Spicy salad green
- Days to germination: 10
- Days to harvest: 45
- Planting: ¼ inch depth, 4" x 6" apart
- Planting time: April

Dill

- Robust, unique flavor
- Days to germination: 7-14
- Days to harvest: 65
- Planting: ¼ inch depth, 9" x 9" apart
- Planting time: April-July

Fennel

- Vegetable, herb, and spice!
- Days to germination: 7-14
- Days to harvest: 80
- Planting: ¼ inch depth, 1' x 1' apart
- Planting time: April-July

Lavender

- Fragrant, attractive flower
- Days to germination: 10-28
- Days to harvest: 100-110
- Planting: ⅛ inch depth, 1.5' x 1.5' apart
- Planting time: April-May

Lemon Balm

- Lemony, perennial herb
- Days to germination: 12-21
- Days to harvest: 68-72
- Planting: ½ inch depth, 2' x 2' apart
- Planting time: April-May

Marjoram

- Grassy, lemony herb
- Days to germination: 8-14
- Days to harvest: 70
- Planting: ¼ inch depth, 6" x 6" apart
- Planting time: February-March

Mint

- Perennial herb; Refreshing, minty leaf
- Days to germination: 12-15
- Days to harvest: 85-90

- Planting: 1/16th inch depth, 1' x 1' apart
- Planting time: April-May

Oregano

- Aromatic cooking herb
- Days to germination: 14
- Days to harvest: 85
- Planting: ¼ inch depth, 1' x 1' apart
- Planting time: April-July

Parsley

- Mild, all-purpose herb
- Days to germination: 21-28
- Days to harvest: 75
- Planting: ¼ inch depth, 10" x 10" apart
- Planting time: April-June

Rosemary

- Fragrant, perennial herb
- Days to germination: 15-25
- Days to harvest: 85-90
- Planting: ⅛ inch depth, 3' x 3' apart
- Planting time: May-June

Sage

- Pleasant seasoning herb
- Days to germination: 10-20
- Days to harvest: 70-80
- Planting: ¼ inch depth, 1' x 1' apart
- Planting time: May-June

Summer Savory

- Peppery, versatile herb
- Days to germination: 10-15
- Days to harvest: 60-70
- Planting: ⅛ inch depth, 1' x 1.5' apart
- Planting time: May-July

Tarragon

- Fragrant and flavorful
- Days to germination: 10-14
- Days to harvest: 75-100
- Planting: ½ inch depth, 1.5' x 1.5' apart
- Planting time: April-July

Thyme

- Woody, floral herb
- Days to germination: 10-15
- Days to harvest: 60-70
- Planting: ½ inch depth, 1' x 1.5' apart
- Planting time: May-July

Maryland Native Plants

What is a native plant?

Simply put: native plants were here first.

Native plants are the indigenous species that occur naturally in a particular region, ecosystem, and habitat. Native plants have co-evolved over time to be especially suited to their environment and the other species in it. North American native plant species are generally recognized as those occurring on the continent prior to European settlement.

Why should I grow native plants?

Support pollinators!

Preserve Maryland's biodiversity!

Support song birds!

Enjoy a beautiful landscape!

Low-input landscapes (grow a flourishing garden without adding extra water, fertilizer, or pesticides)!

University of Maryland Extension, *What is a Native Plant?* and *Why Include Native Plants in Your Garden?*

US Forest Service, *What are Native Plant Materials?*

Stratification & Native Plants

Stratification is the process in which a seed is exposed to certain conditions to break dormancy. Conditions to break seed dormancy usually include a combination of **time**, **temperature**, and **moisture**.

Many native wildflowers, have developed these specialized requirements for germination as a means of survival.

This process occurs **naturally** when seeds are left in natural conditions. Try your hand at **winter sowing** (explained in the Introductory Resources section) to protect your seeds through winter while leveraging these natural processes.

Stratification can also be replicated **artificially** indoors!

- Wrap seeds in a damp paper towel
- Place bundle in a plastic bag inside the refrigerator
- Wait the recommended period of stratification - usually between 30-90 days

...or if you're feeling bold:

- Plant seeds in a pot of moist growing medium
- Cover top with a plastic film
- Place the entire pot in the refrigerator!

Native Flowers

Achillea millefolium (Common Yarrow)

- Perennial
- Reaches 12-18 inches tall
- Blooms June – September
- Prefers full to partial sun
- Grows best in medium wet to dry soil
- No cold moist stratification needed

Aquilegia canadensis (Eastern Red Columbine)

- Perennial
- Reaches 3 feet tall
- Blooms April – June
- Prefers full to partial shade
- Grows best in moist soil
- 60 days cold moist stratification needed

Asclepias tuberosa (Butterfly Milkweed)

- Perennial
- Reaches 3 feet tall
- Blooms June – September
- Prefers full sun
- Grows best in dry soil
- 30 days cold moist stratification needed

Baptisia australis (Blue False Indigo)

- Perennial
- Reaches 4 feet tall
- Blooms May - July
- Prefers full to partial sun
- Grows best in medium to wet
- 10 days cold moist stratification needed and scarification (seed hull scratching)

Bidens aristosa (Tickseed Sunflower)

- Annual
- Reaches 4 feet tall
- Blooms July – November
- Prefers full to partial sun
- Grows best in moist soil
- 60 days cold moist stratification needed

Boehmeria cylindrica (False Nettle)

- Perennial
- Reaches 5 feet tall
- Blooms July – October
- Prefers full to partial shade
- Grows best in moist soil
- No cold moist stratification needed

Callicarpa americana (American Beautyberry)

- Perennial shrub
- Reaches 6 feet tall
- Blooms May – July
- Prefers full to partial sun
- Grows best in dry to moist soil
- 60 days cold moist stratification needed

Cephalanthus occidentalis (Common Buttonbush)

- Perennial shrub
- Reaches 12 feet tall
- Blooms June – August
- Prefers full to partial sun
- Grows best in wet soil
- No cold moist stratification needed

Conoclinium coelestinum (Blue Mistflower)

- Perennial
- Reaches 3.5 feet tall
- Blooms July – October
- Prefers partial sun
- Grows best in moist soil
- 60 days cold moist stratification needed

Coreopsis lanceolata (Lanceleaf Coreopsis)

- Perennial
- Reaches 3 feet tall
- Blooms March – August
- Prefers full to partial sun
- Grows best in dry soil
- No cold moist stratification needed

Echinacea purpurea (Purple Coneflower)

- Perennial
- Reaches 4 feet tall
- Blooms July – September
- Prefers full to partial sun
- Grows best in medium wet to med dry soil
- No cold moist stratification needed

Eryngium yuccifolium (Rattlesnake Master)

- Perennial
- Reaches 6 feet tall
- Blooms June – August
- Prefers full sun
- Grows best in dry soil
- 60 days cold moist stratification needed

Eupatorium hyssopifolium (Hyssop-Leaved Thoroughwort)

- Perennial
- Reaches 4.5 feet tall
- Blooms July – October
- Prefers full to partial sun
- Grows best in dry to moist soil
- 60 days cold moist stratification needed

Eutrochium purpureum (Purple Joe Pye Weed)

- Perennial
- Reaches 6 feet tall
- Blooms July – September
- Prefers full to partial sun
- Grows best in moist to wet soil
- 30 days cold moist stratification needed

Helenium autumnale (Common Sneezeweed)

- Perennial
- Reaches 4 feet tall
- Blooms August – September
- Prefers full to partial sun
- Grows best in medium wet to wet soil
- No cold moist stratification needed

Helenium flexuosum (Purplehead Sneezeweed)

- Perennial
- Reaches 3 feet tall
- Blooms August – September
- Prefers full to partial sun
- Grows best in medium wet to wet soil
- No cold moist stratification needed

Hibiscus moscheuto (Swamp Rose Mallow)

- Perennial shrub
- Reaches 6 feet tall
- Blooms July – September
- Prefers full to partial sun
- Grows best in moist to wet soil
- 60 days cold moist stratification needed

Hypericum prolificum (Shrubby St. John's Wort)

- Perennial shrub
- Reaches 4 feet tall
- Blooms July – September
- Prefers full to partial sun
- Grows best in medium wet to med dry soil
- No cold moist stratification needed

Liatris ligulistylis (Meadow Blazing Star)

- Perennial
- Reaches 4 feet tall
- Blooms July – October
- Prefers full sun
- Grows best in moist soil
- 60 days cold moist stratification needed

Liatris spicata (Dense Blazing Star)

- Perennial
- Reaches 4 feet tall
- Blooms July – August
- Prefers full to partial sun
- Grows best in moist to wet soil
- 60 days cold moist stratification needed

Lobelia cardinalis (Cardinal Flower)

- Perennial

- Reaches 4 feet tall
- Blooms July – September
- Full sun to part sun
- Grows best in wet soil
- 60 days cold moist stratification needed

Lobelia siphilitica (Great Blue Lobelia)

- Perennial
- Reaches 5 feet tall
- Blooms July – September
- Tolerant of most light conditions
- Grows best in wet soil
- 60 days cold moist stratification needed

Ludwigia alternifolia (Seedbox)

- Perennial
- Reaches 3 feet tall
- Blooms May – July
- Prefers full sun
- Grows best in moist soil
- 60 days cold moist stratification needed

Monarda fistulosa (Wild Bergamot)

- Perennial
- Reaches 4 feet tall
- Blooms July – August
- Prefers full to partial sun
- Grows in dry to moist soil
- No cold moist stratification needed

Monarda punctata (Spotted Bee Balm)

- Perennial
- Reaches 2 feet tall
- Blooms July – September
- Prefers full to partial sun
- Grows in dry to moist soil
- No cold moist stratification needed

Oenothera biennis (Evening Primrose)

- Biennial
- Reaches 6 feet tall
- Blooms June – October
- Prefers full to partial sun
- Grows in dry to moist soil
- No cold moist stratification needed

Oenothera fruticose (Narrow-leaved Sundrops)

- Perennial
- Reaches 2 feet tall
- Blooms April – July
- Prefers full to partial sun
- Grows in dry to moist soil
- 30 days cold moist stratification needed

Penstemon digitalis (Foxglove Beardtongue)

- Perennial
- Reaches 5 feet tall
- Blooms April – July
- Prefers full to partial sun
- Grows in dry to moist soil
- 30 days cold moist stratification needed

Penstemon hirsutus (Hairy Beardtongue)

- Perennial
- Reaches 1-2 feet tall
- Blooms May – July
- Prefers full to partial sun
- Grows in dry to moist soil
- 60 days cold moist stratification needed

Physostegia virginiana (Obedient Plant)

- Perennial

- Reaches 5 feet tall
- Blooms August – November
- Prefers full sun
- Grows in dry to moist soil
- 60 days cold moist stratification needed

Pycnanthemum muticum (Short-toothed Mountain Mint)

- Perennial
- Reaches 3 feet tall
- Blooms July – September
- Prefers full to partial sun
- Grows best in medium dry to dry soil
- No cold moist stratification needed

Pycnanthemum tenuifolium (Slender Mountain Mint)

- Perennial
- Reaches 2 feet tall
- Blooms June – September
- Prefers full to partial sun
- Grows best in medium wet to med dry soil
- No cold moist stratification needed

Pycnanthemum virginianum (American Mountain Mint)

- Perennial
- Reaches 3 feet tall
- Blooms June – September
- Prefers full to partial sun
- Grows best in wet to medium dry soil
- No cold moist stratification needed

Rudbeckia fulgida (Orange Coneflower)

- Perennial
- Reaches 3.5 feet tall
- Blooms July – October
- Prefers full to partial sun
- Grows in dry to moist soil
- 60 days cold moist stratification needed

Rudbeckia hirta (Black Eyed Susan)

- Attributes
- Perennial
- Reaches 2.5 feet tall
- Blooms May – August
- Prefers full sun
- Grows in dry to moist soil
- 30 days cold moist stratification needed

Rudbeckia laciniata (Cutleaf Coneflower)

- Perennial
- Reaches 10 feet tall
- Blooms July – October
- Tolerant of most light conditions
- Grows best in moist soil
- 30 days cold moist stratification needed

Rudbeckia triloba (Brown Eyed Susan)

- Perennial/Biennial
- Reaches 2.5 feet tall
- Blooms May – August
- Prefers full sun
- Grows in dry to moist soil
- 30 days cold moist stratification needed

Salvia lyrata (Lyreleaf Sage)

- Perennial
- Reaches 2 feet tall

- Blooms May – July
- Prefers full to partial sun
- Grows best in moist soil
- No cold moist stratification needed

Senna marilandica (Maryland Senna)

- Perennial
- Reaches 4 feet tall
- Blooms July – August
- Prefers full to partial sun
- Grows best in medium moisture soil
- 10 days cold moist stratification needed and scarification (seed hull scratching)

Sisyrinchium angustifolium (Blue-Eyed Grass)

- Perennial
- Reaches 1.5 feet tall
- Blooms March – July
- Prefers full to partial sun
- Grows in dry to moist soil
- 60 days cold moist stratification needed

Solidago caesia (Blue-Stemmed Goldenrod)

- Perennial
- Reaches 3.5 feet tall
- Blooms August – October
- Tolerant of most light conditions
- Grows in dry to moist soil
- 60 days cold moist stratification needed

Solidago odora (Sweet Goldenrod)

- Perennial
- Reaches 5 feet tall
- Blooms July – October
- Prefers full to partial sun
- Grows in dry to moist soil
- 60 days cold moist stratification needed

Solidago speciosa (Showy Goldenrod)

- Perennial
- Reaches 6.5 feet tall
- Blooms August – October
- Prefers full to partial sun
- Grows in dry to moist soil
- 60 days cold moist stratification needed

Symphyotrichum laeve (Smooth Blue Aster)

- Perennial
- Reaches 4 feet tall
- Blooms August – October
- Prefers full to partial sun
- Grows best in medium wet to med dry soil
- No cold moist stratification needed

Symphyotrichum novae-angliae (New England Aster)

- Perennial
- Reaches 6 feet tall
- Blooms August – November
- Prefers full to partial sun
- Grows best in moist to wet soil
- 60 days cold moist stratification needed

Verbena hastata (Blue Vervain)

- Perennial
- Reaches 5 feet tall
- Blooms July – September

- Prefers full to partial sun
- Grows in medium to wet soil
- 30 days cold moist stratification needed

Verbesina occidentalis (Yellow Crownsbeard)

- Perennial
- Reaches 8 feet tall
- Blooms August – October
- Prefers full to partial sun
- Grows in dry to moist soil
- 60 days cold moist stratification needed

Vernonia noveboracensis (New York Ironweed)

- Perennial
- Reaches 8 feet tall
- Blooms August – October
- Prefers full to partial sun
- Prefers moist to wet soil
- 60 days cold moist stratification needed

Veronicastrum virginicum (Culver's Root)

- Perennial
- Reaches 5 feet tall
- Blooms June – August
- Prefers full to partial sun
- Grows best in medium wet to med dry soil
- No cold moist stratification needed

Yucca filamentosa (Adam's Needle)

- Perennial shrub
- Reaches 2.5 feet tall
- Blooms June – September
- Prefers full sun
- Grows best in dry soil
- No cold moist stratification needed

Schizachyrium scoparium (Little Blue Stem)

- Reaches 3 feet tall
- Blooms July – October
- Prefers full to partial sun
- Grows best in medium to dry soil
- No cold moist stratification needed

Native Grasses

Chasmanthium latifolium (Northern Sea Oats)

- Perennial
- Reaches 5 feet tall
- Blooms June – September
- Prefers full to partial sun
- Grows in dry to moist soil
- 60 cold moist stratification needed

Sorghastrum nutans (Indian Grass)

- Reaches 6 feet tall
- Blooms August – September
- Prefers full to partial sun
- Grows best in medium to dry soil
- No cold moist stratification needed

Eragrostis spectabilis (Purple Love Grass)

- Reaches 2 feet tall
- Blooms July – August
- Prefers full to partial sun
- Grows best in dry soil
- No cold moist stratification needed

Panicum virgatum (Switch Grass)

- Reaches 4 feet tall
- Blooms July – September
- Prefers full to partial sun
- Grows best in medium wet to dry soil
- No cold moist stratification needed

What's in a Name?

Most plants are referred to by several different names, which can vary by language, culture, and region. One Maryland native plant species, *Monarda didyma*, can be referred to as beebalm, Oswego tea, bergamot, horsemint, or scarlet monarda, depending on where you live. While each plant can have many different common names, it only has one botanical name. This helps to describe species attributes, prevent confusion in identification, and determine relation between species.

A botanical name is typically made up of two parts: a genus and a species. The genus, which comes first and is capitalized, can refer to a wide variety of closely related plants. The species, which is second and lowercase, directly describes that one specific species within that genus. For example, *Monarda didyma* has a genus (*Monarda*) and a species (*didyma*). The genus *Monarda* contains many other species, including *M. punctata* and *M. fistulosa* - two other native plant species - but *Monarda didyma* refers to just one species of plant!

Weston Nurseries, *Don't Confuse Me with Those Scientific Names!*
Sky Nursery, *Why Botanical Names Matter*

Non-Native Flowers & Plants

Non-Native Flowers

Alyssum

- Annual
- Blooms in whites, blues, and purples
- Reaches 6 inches tall
- Blooms April-May & September-October
- Planting: ½ inch depth, 1" x 4" apart
- Planting time: April-June

Cosmos

- Annual
- Blooms in a variety of colors
- Reaches 5 feet tall
- Blooms July – October
- Planting: ¼ inch depth, 1.5' x 1.5' apart
- Planting time: April-June

Gypsophila

- Annual
- Also known as Baby's Breath
- White blooms
- Reaches 1.5 feet tall
- Blooms May – August
- Planting: ½ inch depth, 2" x 3" apart
- Planting time: April-June

Helichrysum

- Annual
- Blooms in a variety of colors
- Reaches 2-3 feet tall
- Blooms May – August
- Planting: ¼ inch depth, 1" x 2" apart
- Planting time: April-June

Marigold

- Annual
- Blooms in oranges, reds, and yellows
- Reaches 3 feet tall

- Blooms June – October
- Planting: ½ inch depth, 2" x 3" apart
- Planting time: April-June

Nasturtium

- Annual
- Blooms in oranges, reds, and yellows
- Reaches 8 inches tall
- Blooms June – October
- Planting: ¼ inch depth, 6" x 12" apart
- Planting time: May-June

Petunia

- Annual
- Blooms in a variety of colors
- Reaches 1.5 feet tall
- Blooms June – October
- Planting: ½ inch depth, 1" x 8" apart
- Planting time: April-June

Poppy

- Annual
- Blooms in oranges and yellows
- Reaches 1.5 feet tall
- Blooms July – October
- Planting: ¼ inch depth, 1" x 2" apart
- Planting time: April-June

Snapdragon

- Annual
- Blooms in a variety of colors
- Reaches 3.5 feet tall
- Blooms July – October
- Planting: ½ inch depth, 2' x 2' apart
- Planting time: April-May

Sunflower

- Annual
- Blooms in oranges and yellows
- Reaches up to 12 feet tall
- Blooms July – October
- Planting: 1 inch depth, 2' x 3' apart
- Planting time: April-June

Sweet William

- Biennial
- Blooms in a variety of colors
- Reaches 2 feet tall
- Blooms May – June
- Planting: ⅛ inch depth, 1" x 1" apart
- Planting time: April-June

Zinnia

- Annual
- Blooms in a variety of colors
- Reaches 3.5 feet tall
- Blooms June – October
- Planting: ½ inch depth, 18" x 24" apart
- Planting time: May-June

Non-Native Plants

Sorghum

- Biennial
- Blooms in a variety of colors
- Reaches up to 12 feet tall
- Blooms September – October
- Planting: 1 inch depth, 8" x 36" apart
- Planting time: May-June

Glossary

Botanical Name: a unique name for each individual species of plant; comprised of a genus and species

Brassica: a large family of plants, commonly known as the mustard family; includes broccoli, kale, cabbage, and more

Broadcast: a method of seed distribution wherein seeds are thrown in a sweeping motion to cover an area

Compost: decayed organic matter used as plant fertilizer

Cultivar: a plant variety that has been produced through selective breeding

Genus: the first part of a botanical name; a term used to classify a group of species

Germination: congrats! your seed has developed into a plant!

Hardening off: the process of acclimating plants started indoors to the outdoor elements to reduce transplant shock

Hardiness: a plant's ability to survive adverse growing conditions, like cold, heat, drought, flooding, and wind

Heirloom: refers to a species of plants that have stayed the same for dozens (if not hundreds) of years

Herbaceous: refers to a plant that does not have woody tissues

Native plants: indigenous species that occur naturally in a particular region, ecosystem, and habitat

Open-pollinated: refers to plants whose flowers are fertilized by pollinators (insects, birds, bats, etc.) or elements (wind, rain); open-pollinated plants' seeds that will grow to produce the same plant as its parent

Planting zone: the USDA standard by which gardeners can determine which plants are likely to thrive in a particular area

Sowing: the process of planting seeds

Species: the second part of a botanical name; a term used to describe one distinct type of plant

Stratification: the process in which a seed is exposed to moist, cold, or warm conditions to break dormancy. This process occurs naturally when seeds are left in natural conditions, or can be simulated indoors

Transplant: the technique in which a plant is moved from one location to another, most often during the plant's seedling stage

Vermiculite: a mineral that is often added to soils to aid in aeration and drainage