

START YOUR SEEDS!

KAY STIMSON, RED HILL GARDEN CLUB
JANUARY 2025



Photo: Gardener's Supply Company

IMAGINE!



Photo: Maryland Grows

GROW A VEGGIE PATCH

RHGC, JANUARY 2025



A SEED IS A SEED...

...or is it???

1) Is it organic?

2) Do you plan to save any seeds from your plants?

3) Is it the right seed for your growth habits?



READ THE SEED

PACKET DESCRIPTIONS

Heirloom = Pure breeds

Hybrid (F1) = Mixes

Open-Pollinated (OP) = Mutts



COMMON MISTAKES

- 1) Starting seeds at the wrong time.
- 2) Not reading seed packages.
- 3) Using the wrong growing medium.
- 4) Wrong warmth/air/light conditions.
- 5) Watering too much or too little.
- 6) Forgetting to label seedlings.
- 7) Transplanting issue (thinning/potting up)
- 8) Not hardening off the plant.



FIVE STEP-PLAN

FOLLOWING THE CALENDAR:

- 1) Sowing
- 2) Watering
- 3) Fertilizing
- 4) Transplanting (if necessary)
- 5) Hardening Off

PLANT	START INDOORS	TRANSPLANT OUTDOORS
Basil	April 15	May 20
Tomatoes	April 15	May 20
Broccoli	March 15	May 1
Cauliflower	March 15	May 1
Peppers	May 1	June 20
Parsley	March 1	May 1
Cabbage	March 15	May 1
Pumpkin	May 1	May 20
Beets	**	April 15
Kale	March 1	April 15
Celery	Feb 15	March 15
Cucumber	May 1	June 15
Onions	Feb 15	April 1
Lettuce	March 1	April 1
Melon	April 15	June 1
Spinach	**	March 15
B. Sprouts	March 15	May 1
Corn	April 15	May 15
Peas	March 15	May 1

WHAT TO SOW INTO

TRAYS, MODULES, POTS... OR OTHER?

ALSO CONSIDER:

- Seed Starter
- Heating Pad
- Lighting Source
- Small Fan
- Labels
- Misting Bottle



GROW LIGHTS

LOTS OF GUIDES AVAILABLE ONLINE

- Gardener's Supply Company
- Amazon
- Burpee Seed Company

Just GOOGLE it!



GETTING STARTED

WHAT TO GROW: THE BASICS

HERBS & VEGGIES

- Basil
- Thyme
- Parsley
- Rosemary
- Lettuce
- Spinach
- Kale
- Radishes
- Peas
- Beans

FLOWERS & GREENERY

- Zinnias
- Cosmos
- Coleus
- Black-Eyed Susans
- Marigolds
- Calendula
- Nasturtium
- Sunflowers
- Coneflowers
- Morning Glories



**LOOKS GOOD,
TASTES GREAT!**

RHGC, JANUARY 2025



DIRECT SOWING

WELCOME TO THE I-66 EXPRESS LANES OF GARDENING!

- Lettuce
- Kale
- Beans
- Peas
- Cucumbers
- Flowers - Nasturtium, Zinnias, Poppies - the list goes on!



INSPIRATION

AKA: WHAT'S ON MY MIND FOR 2025

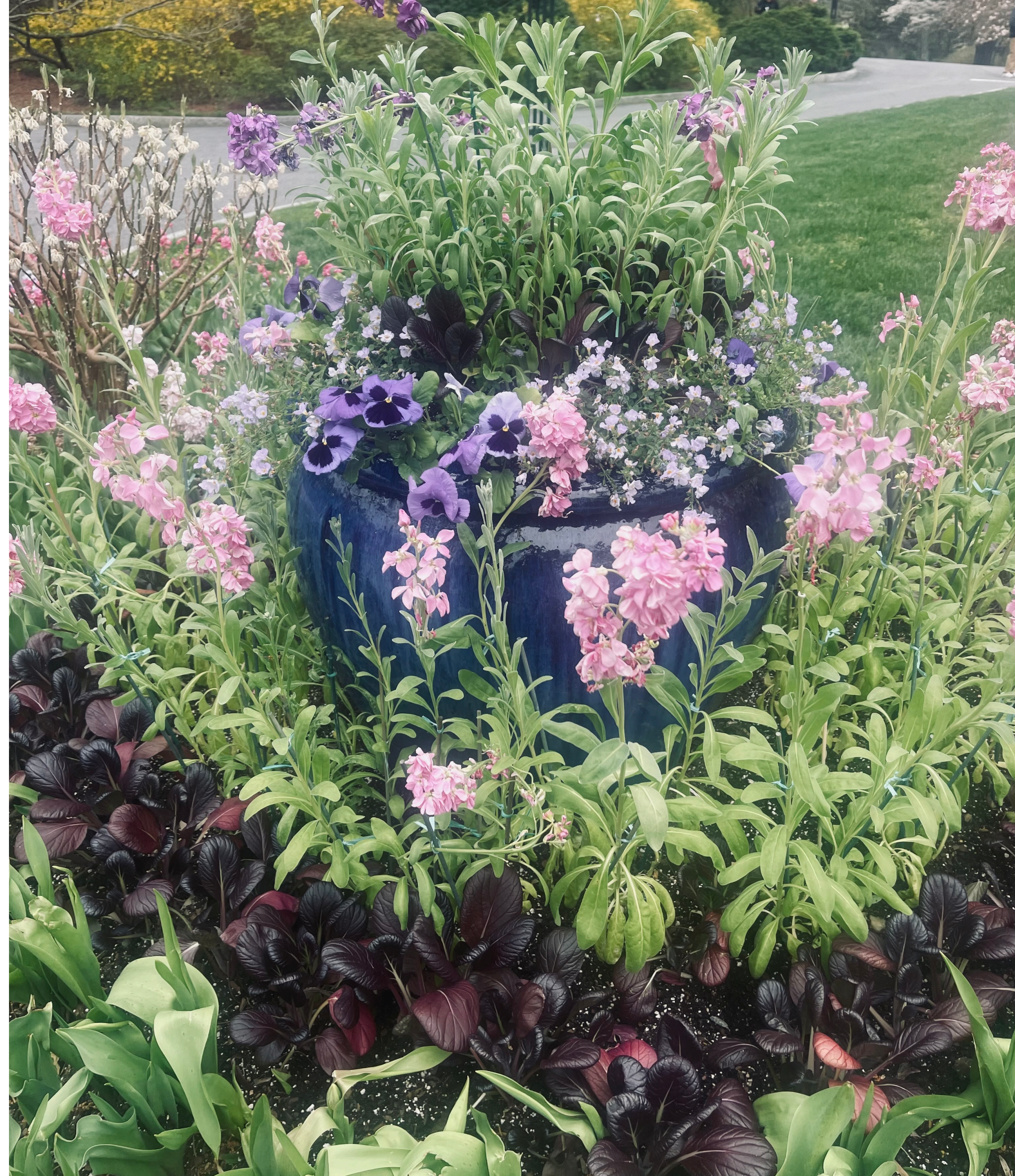
HERBS & VEGGIES

- Tomatoes
- Sculpit (aka Silene)
- Purple Pak Choi
- Microgreens
- Cucumbers

FLOWERS & GREENERY

- Zinnias
- Butterfly Pea Flower
- Pompon Dahlias
- Other flower seeds that I have bought aspirationally...





CHECK IT OUT

- Southern Exposure Seed Exchange (VA)
- Burpee Seeds (PA)
- Eden Brothers (NC)
- Hudson Valley (NY)
- Johnny's Seeds (ME)
- Annie's Heirloom Seeds (MI)
- Select Seeds (CT)
- South Georgia Seed Company (GA)
- High Mowing Seeds (VT)

RHGC, JANUARY 2025



West/Midwest

Renee's Heirloom Seeds (CA)
Territorial Seed (OR)
High Desert Seed (CO)
Hume Seeds (CA)
Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds (MO)

MORE...

- **Prairie Moon Nursery Native Seeds & Plants**
- **Logee's Fruiting, Rare and Tropical Plants**
- **John Scheepers Beauty from Bulbs**
- **Secret Seed Cartel**
- **The Gardener's Workshop**
- **Appalachian Heirloom Plant Farm**
- **The Cucumber Shop**
- **SUGGESTED: Row 7 Seed Company**



The best things in life are free...

Virginia Cooperative Extension Service

703-228-6414

www.mgnv.org

mgarlalex@gmail.com

RESOURCES

- **Seed Starting, Pat Dickey**
<https://www.fairfaxgardening.org/wp-content/webdocs/pdf/StartingSeeds.pdf>
- ***Grow Great Virginia Vegetables*, Ira Wallace**
- **Tutorials available online at seed company websites (or Pinterest, IG, YouTube) or guides to purchase from nurseries.**

