



Garden Club
of IRVINGTON ON HUDSON

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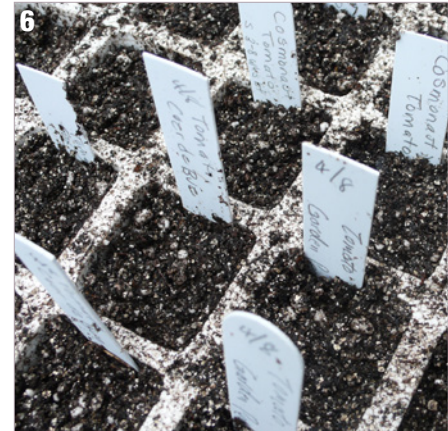
Want beautiful annuals and tasty vegetables? Start from Seeds

In the Lyndhurst Greenhouse, where plants are grown from cuttings for our annual pre-Mother's Day Plant Sale, Renee Shamosh and Donghai Zhen demonstrate the correct way to plant seeds in order to grow abundant, healthy annuals and vegetables:

- 1 Fill a plastic tub with soilless, sterilized seed-starting mixture and dampen it with room-temperature water.

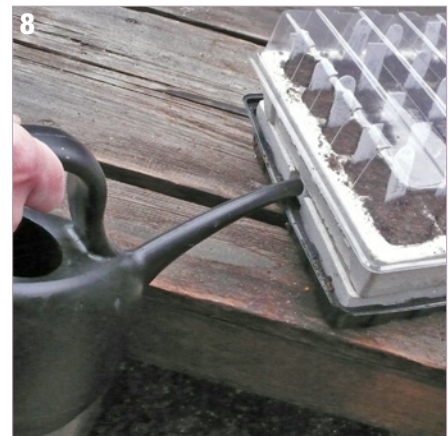


HOW TO DO IT:



2 Pack seed-starting mix into the planting tray. Renee swears by the APS 40 kit from Gardener's Supply, an all-in-one system that has an insulated planting tray with 40 2 by 2-inch cells, a water reservoir (so the seedlings self-water from the bottom, minimizing the chance of fungal disease), a capillary mat, and greenhouse cover.

3 Choose your seeds. Read the packet instructions to learn how many weeks before 'no danger of frost' the seeds require for germination and to reach the size that's ready for transplanting into a larger pot or a garden bed. (Note: some seeds must be soaked or split and others must be direct-sowed into the garden.)



4 - 5 - 6 Write the date and name of the plant on a marker for every row or cell.

7 Use tweezers to place the seeds. Larger seeds, like these tomato seeds that had been saved on a paper towel, are placed one per cell; tiny ones three or four (the weakest seedlings to be thinned out). Cover with soilless mix to the depth the packet advises.

8 Fill the reservoir with room-temperature water. Cover the tray and place it on a heating mat or in a warm place like a sunny window-sill. Check the reservoir and refill as needed, usually once a week.

9 The results could be a spectacular as this >



The Garden Club of Irvington-on-Hudson (GCI) is a member of The Garden Club of America, a volunteer nonprofit organization with 200 member clubs and 18,000 members nationwide who participate in an array of horticulture, conservation and civic improvement projects.

Susan Weisenberg, GCI President; Nora Galland, Horticulture Chair; Renee Shamosh and Ellen Shapiro, Horticulture Bulletin Co-editors

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