

WTCGG

Washington
Township
Community
Garden

NEWSLETTER: Planning The Garden

It started in January with the arrival of the first seed catalogs. What perfect timing to stir hope in my heart at a time when holiday festivities were done and the winter became monotonous. Somehow my name has gotten to various seed companies because wow did those giant colorful catalogs come in. Sure I'd been thinking on and off about my garden out back and toying with ideas for new fencing, enlargement and this year's plant arrangement, but nothing inspires like the eye dazzling delights of seed catalogs.

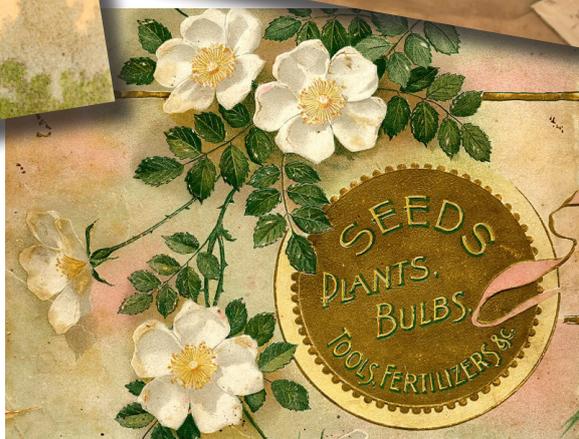
So many ideas and questions swirl in my head while planning my garden: should I try to grow eggplant again, this time under row covers to fight life sucking flea beetles and how many green bean plants are just enough? I have NEVER grown the right amount of green beans.

Decisions have been made gradually though like YES I will try carrots again not because my son sometimes eats them (although he's off them right now for unknown reasons) but because they bred purple ones that are cute and I want to grow them. This will require additional money spent on beneficial nematodes to rid the garden of root knot nematodes that have plagued any root crop I've previously grown. But in January, with these colorful, exciting seed catalogs in front of me filling my head with visions of sunny warm days in the garden, anything seems possible.

Also, some words of seed wisdom from my own experiences. When they give you dates of seed and plant transplanting, follow them. No really... listen. Sometimes controlling these early gardening urges is ridiculously hard. It's worth the wait though. It sure is.
Denise Tedeschi



One of the most delightful things about a garden is the anticipation it provides.
~W.E. Johns



Monthly To-Do List To Keep You On-Track With Your Garden Activities For Zones 5-6, from www.thevegetablegarden.com

January:

- Start a garden record book now, allowing space to record the dates of first and last frosts, sowing seeds, planting, transplanting, time of bloom, first fruits, fertilizing, problems with pests, and other information. Over a period of years, this will be an invaluable record.
- Browse seed catalogs and start planning this year's garden.
- Start cool season plants in greenhouse or warm southern window.
- Plan vegetable garden; remember to rotate crops.
- Plow or till garden in the fall or winter to reduce populations of grasshoppers and harlequin bugs.

February:

- Browse seed catalogs and start planning this year's garden.
- Order from catalogs or pickup seeds local garden shop.
- Start more cool season plants in greenhouse or warm southern window.

March:

- Plant blueberries, strawberries and grapes.
- Mulch strawberries with pine straw as soon as they start blooming.
- Start seeds of tomatoes, peppers, eggplant and other warm-season veggies. Also start cole crops like broccoli, cauliflower, Chinese greens, cabbage and kohlrabi, as well as other greens. (cont'd pg 2)

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- If you have a frost-free cold frame, plant early spinach, lettuce and other hardy greens. Place onions and tomatoes started in February in a frost-free cold frame by mid-month.
- It's traditional to plant peas and taters on St. Patrick's Day, but if your garden soil feels like Play-Doh, wait until later to plant [if it's like chocolate cake, go ahead !]
- Fertilize the garden as the soil is being prepared for planting, unless directed otherwise by a soil test. Soil samples can be taken to your county extension office to be analyzed.



COME GROW WITH US!
WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
COMMUNITY GARDEN
ORGANIC PRODUCE

Plant carrots in January and you'll never have to eat carrots.
~Author Unknown

Image © Denise Tedeschi

Our first and last freeze/frost dates for Washington Township, New Jersey.

Each winter, on average, our risk of frost is from Oct. 7 - May 5.
Almost certainly, however, we will receive frost from Oct. 21 - April 23.
We are almost guaranteed that we will not get frost from May 18 - Sept. 23.
Our frost-free growing season is around 155 days.

WTPL Seed Library Swap 'n' Pack

Come out of hibernation on Tuesday, February 18 at 7pm to enjoy a warm drink and some snacks at the Washington Twp Library while swapping seeds, sharing gardening advice, and helping the Seed Library @ WTPL prepare for its big debut. You could score some seeds to grow those tomatoes or green beans your neighbor was raving about last year, and you'll get a sneak peek at the selections that will be offered by the Seed Library when it opens in March. We'll also be packaging up and organizing the seeds that have been donated to the Seed Library. Bring your favorite seed catalogs and any leftover or saved seeds you're willing to share. No gardening experience necessary! If all you've got is a keen interest, that's just as valuable. The Seed Library is just as much about growing our community as it is about growing vegetables!



A USDA Planting Schedule for Zones 5-6 may be found at

Cauliflower - Kale Soup

from Joanne Mulvihill

Kosher salt and pepper to taste

- 1 large bunch kale, stems removed, leaves torn into 1" pcs.
- 1 yellow onion, diced
- 2 celery stalks, diced
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 7 cups broth, chicken or vegetable
- 1/3 cup pine nuts, toasted
- cooking oil

1. Preheat oven to 450°F

Toss cauliflower in a large bowl with 2 TBS oil, season with salt and pepper. Place on baking sheet. Roast, stirring once until crisp, about 22 minutes.

2. Reduce oven to 300°F. In a bowl, toss half of the kale with 1TBS oil, season with salt. Place on baking sheet. Roast, stirring once, until crispy, 26-28 minutes.

3. In a dutch oven (or heavy lidded pot) over medium heat, warm 2 TBS oil. Cook onion and celery 8 minutes, add garlic and cook 1 minute. Season with salt and pepper. Add cauliflower and broth. Bring to a simmer over medium high heat. Cover and cook over medium-low heat for 10 minutes. Stir in remaining kale; cook over medium heat 10 more minutes. Puree soup. Ladle into bowls and top with crispy kale and pine nuts.

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Growing Celery Indoors:

From the gardening blog of www.17apart.com

We've figured out how to literally re-grow organic celery from the base of the bunch we bought from the store a couple weeks ago. I swear, we must have been living under a rock all these years or just not be that resourceful when it comes to food, but we're having more fun learning all these new little tips and tricks as we dive deeper into trying to grow more of our own food.



How To: Regrow Celery

“Instead of tossing the base, rinse it off and place it in a small saucer or bowl of warm water on or near a sunny window-sill base side down and cut stalks facing upright.”

Info about growing celery and more may be found at www.17apart.com



All images are the original work of and property of 17 Apart.

Things, we're Working On



EVENTS COMMITTEE:

We are looking for volunteers interested in creating an events committee for our garden. Events could be educational classes, visiting master garden speakers, child fun events, picnics, growing challenges, etc.

FUNDRAISING

We're working on a selection of items to offer for sale at any venue that allows us to set up a display table to promote our garden. We hope to have items ready for spring. The design on the right is one we are considering for tee shirts, sweatshirts and perhaps other items.

Design © Denise Tedeschi.

SOWING SEEDS
 TILLING • HOEING • DIGGING

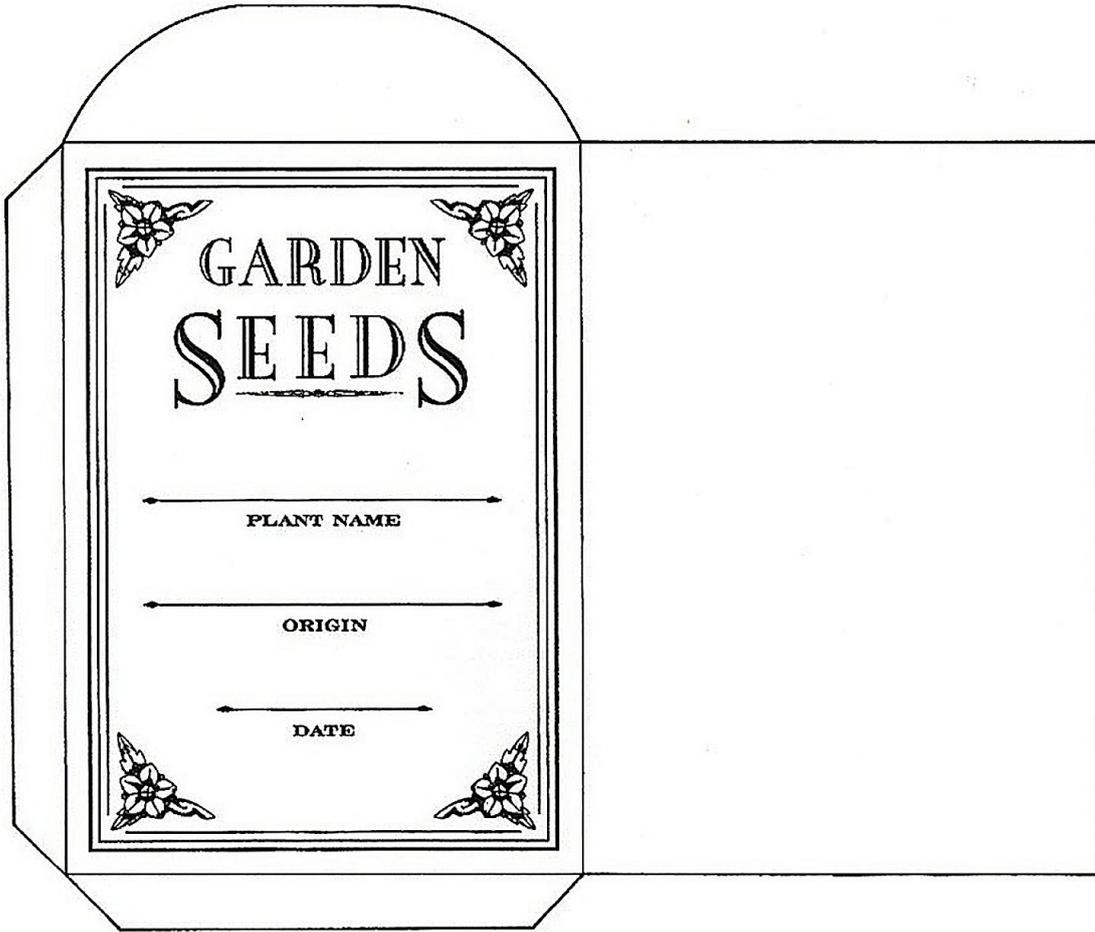
ANNUALS & PERENNIALS

PLANT ORGANIC
VEGGIES

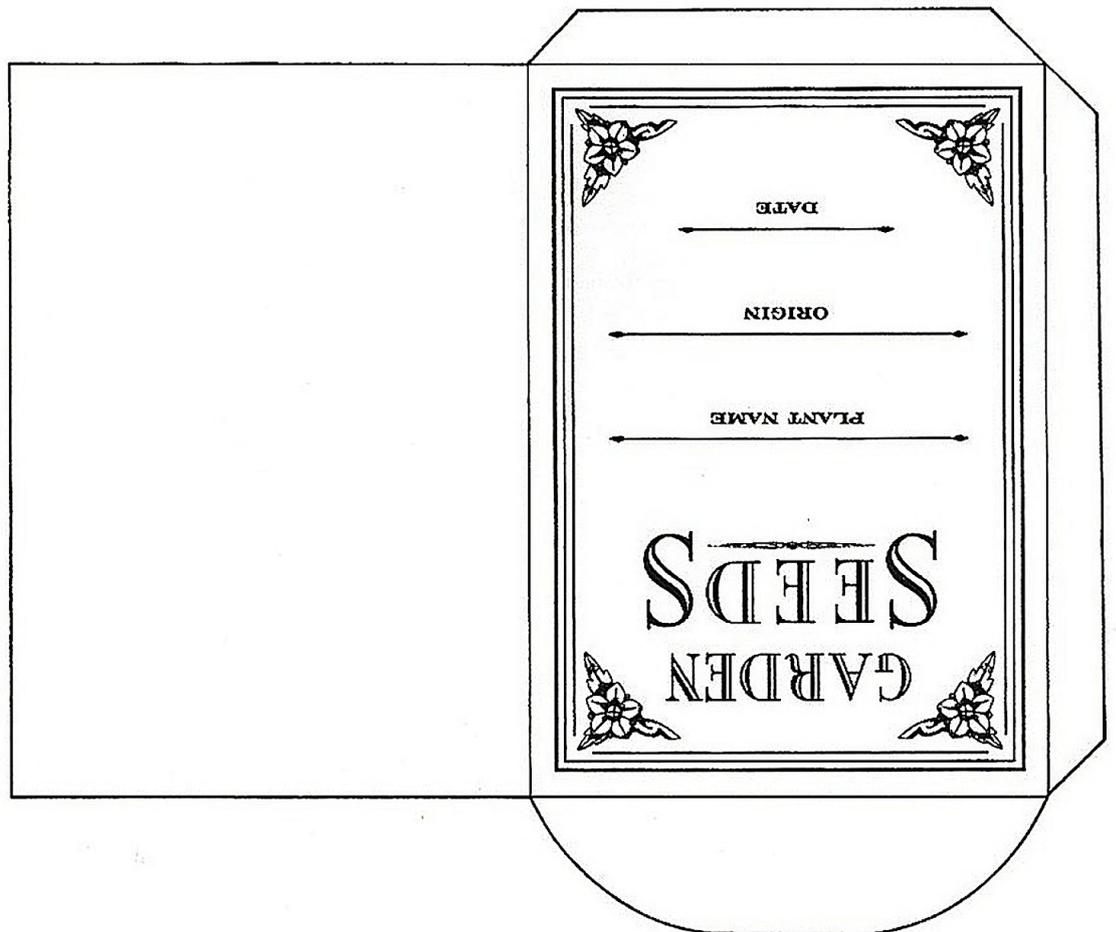
WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
COMMUNITY
WATER GARDEN
 PRUNE

HARVEST 
FAMILY & FRIENDS 

Make Your Own SEED PACKS!



- Print this page.
- Cut on exterior lines.
- Fold flaps.
- Tape or glue small side & bottom flaps to large flap.
- Label then fill with selected seeds.



ENJOY!

Our Sponsorship Program

Because we have a few needs that are pressing we've started a sponsorship program so those who want to help, can. We need to: help fund scout projects that are costly, buy some tools & supplies and build a couple sturdy long lasting compost bins. There are many people in our community who would like to help give the garden support. Please reach out to your family, friends & local businesses and share our website page where a sponsorship application may be downloaded. <http://wtcommunitygarden.jimdo.com/sponsorship/>

Business & Personal Sponsorships

With your help we will be able to have the basics every garden needs.

For your sponsorship we will plant bulbs, place pavers & stepping stones or plant a fruit tree in your name.

 <p>Fruit Tree</p> <p>Large logo featured on website. A Fruit Tree planted in WTCG with dedication plaque.</p> <p>\$500 +</p>	<p>Sponsored by Luigi's Pizza Joe & Maria</p> <p>Stepping Stone</p> <p>Medium logo featured on website. Engraved Bluestone Stepping Stone placed in WTCG.</p> <p>\$250 - \$499</p>	<p>Joe & Maria Santos</p> <p>Brick Paver</p> <p>Small logo featured on website. Engraved Paver placed in WTCG.</p> <p>\$100 - \$249</p>	 <p>1 Doz. Bulbs</p> <p>Name featured on website. One dozen bulbs planted in WTCG.</p> <p>\$50</p>
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