

Forget Me Not
Publications 

Seed Starting

The First Step to Gardening



Gary Emmett

Copyright © 2012 by Gary Emmett. All rights reserved worldwide. No part of this publication may be replicated, redistributed, or given away in any form without the prior written consent of the author/publisher or the terms relayed to you herein.

Forget Me Not Publications
Lovell, WY 82431 forgetmenotpublications.com



Cover Design: [Christi Gifford](#)

A bit of Thanks

I want and need to thank my wonderful wife and editor, Brenda, who knew when to push me and realized when I didn't want to be pushed. The encouragement after all of these years of letting me do the things I do in our garden. Honey, I will get your black thumb green eventually. And to my other gardening friends and associates that I have met and mingled with over the years, and especially to those who have helped with some chapter edits: Marilyn, Steva, and Bernie thank you.

This sample is provided for your enjoyment and is copyrighted. No part of this sample may be replicated, redistributed, or given away in any form without the prior written consent of the author/publisher or the terms relayed to you herein.

Table of Contents

Copyright
Introduction
Chapter 1: Planning Your Garden
Chapter 2: All About Seeds
Chapter 3: Potting Soils
Chapter 4: Growing Equipment
Chapter 5: Do You Have Enough Light?
Chapter 6: Other Growing Needs
Chapter 7: Ready To Transplant
Conclusion: Are You Ready? Let's Get Growing!

Introduction



Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the Seeds that you plant. ~Robert Louis Stevenson

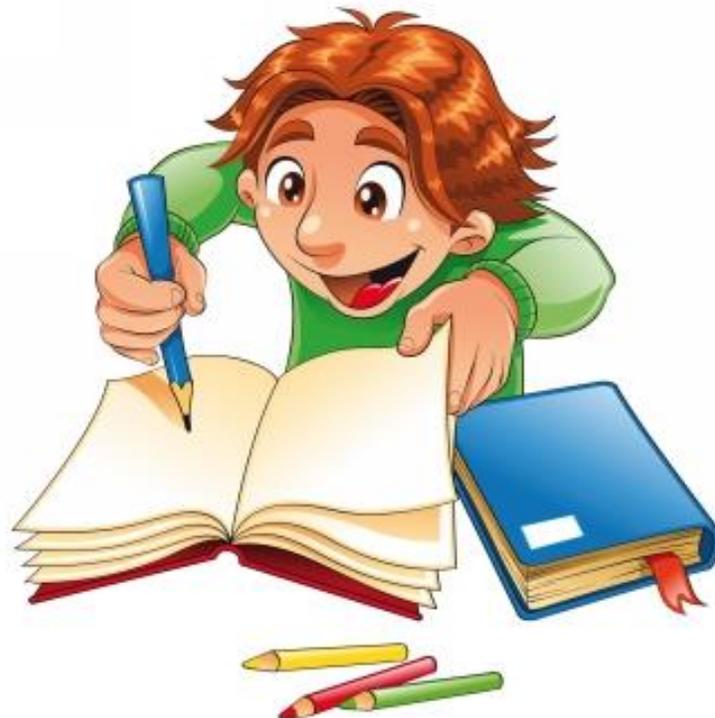
It usually seems that when the Holidays are over at the end of a year and the lights and decorations are all taken down, one's mind turns to the next season: Spring. Not only do we start thinking ahead, but we often have seed catalogs in the mail reminding us of the oncoming change in the season and that spring could only be a page away.

I enjoy looking at as many seed catalogs as I can. I start thinking of what I would enjoy growing. At first I look at the pictures, seeing many new and exciting varieties. Tried and true varieties jump out, as if saying "Hello Friend, it's been awhile." I will get lost in their pages for what seems like hours. My wife even laughs at me, for more than once she has found me asleep with the catalog resting on my chest.

For some, those seed catalogs are a nuisance, to others they are a dream of days to come sometime soon. But to most, they just might seem to be a bit intimidating. Looking at all of the possibilities on the pages of those catalogs, but yet not knowing if it is at all possible to get anything to grow. Those catalogs usually end up being a path not taken.

Let's go down that path together...

Chapter 1: Planning Your Garden



"He who fails to plan is planning to fail." ~Winston Churchill

Write it down.

Before I get carried away with too much daydreaming of what I want to order from the seed catalogs, I get out my designated notebook or gardening journal, as I like to call it. This journal has my garden history in it. Now I know after several years of planting in the same garden plot, the dimensions of my garden. I know that I have 12 garden boxes or raised beds that are 4 x 12 foot in size. The width of my garden is 50 feet, with the approximate length of 100 feet. I do have 25 more feet at the end of my garden plot if I want to extend the size or maybe try something new.

Start your own Gardening Journal-I like to keep my journal in a 3 ring binder so I can keep adding to it. Whether you keep track year by year, or separate your information into categories, that is up to you. However, I like to keep track of it by years. I like to review last year's notes on which new seeds I grew, and hopefully refer to notes that I made on each as to whether I liked it or what I thought of those new plants that I grew last year. These notes help me with making the decisions of what I am going to grow this year. Do I really need to try anything new or should I do what I did last year? Of course I want to try something new.

You need to do this too. You need to keep your own Gardening Journal. Your first entry should read: "Today I started to Plan my Garden."

What Size is your Garden?

It is important to know the size of your Garden. Write this in your Journal: My Garden is ___X___. This will also give you the square footage of your garden. If you plant in raised beds, what size are they? If you only plant in pots or containers, how many do you have?

It is important to know the direction of your garden. Does it lay north and south or does it lay east to west? Draw out your garden, make mention of where trees are and shadows that they might create. Remember the sunlight that is shining on a dormant or winter garden will be different than the light that will be shining on your summer garden.

What do you want from your garden? Do you just want enough to supplement a few fresh meals? Do you plan on canning or adding your harvest to your food storage? Do you have just enough room for a few plants, planting only in containers? Is your space limited for growing just enough garden produce for fresh salads or maybe planting just enough for a fresh salsa garden? These are just some of the many questions you must ask yourself when planning what size of garden you want to grow and more importantly, what amount of time will you be able to dedicate to the raising of your garden.

This ends the preview. Find the rest of the book on Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble.Com, iBooks, and other fine online bookstores.