

Growing plants from seed a magical part of gardening

This has been a most unusual winter! The combination of lack of snow for insulation, the mild weather tempting the buds of shrubs to swell and the constant threat of damage to trees from ice as the thermometer hovers around 0 (degrees) C is enough to make a gardener nervous.

If your bulbs have started poking through, cover the soil with a light mulch of straw or peat moss.

The perfect antidote to outdoor worries is to grow something on your windowsills or in a fluorescent light garden. Happy is the gardener who is overwintering plants from cuttings - these are now probably ready to have another cutting taken from them. If growth is straggly, pinch out the growing tip to promote the development of side branches. Growing new plants from seed is the most magical aspect of gardening but it's too early to start anything yet except tender geraniums which require four months of growing before blooming. (If you soak these seeds overnight in lukewarm water, germination will take place in two to three days.)

Not everyone has suitable conditions for seed growing - a large sunny window or fluorescent light fixture (cool white tubes are sufficient to achieve your aim) and a daily dedication to detail (No holidays). The object to growing from seed is to produce compact green plants that will transplant well into your garden or containers, not large flowering specimens such as those grown by professionals.



Let's Get Growing

Marjorie Mason Hogue

Stocky growth is achieved by ample light and cool nights - about 15 (degrees) C. Now is the time to purchase your seeds from specialty seed catalogues or off the rack in your favourite garden centre, research their requirements for germination and the necessary starting date - most annuals are seeded four to 12 weeks before planting outdoors. Gather your containers - they should be shallow and have drainage holes. Wash and disinfect with a mild bleach solution those that have been used previously. Purchase a soilless mix which has been blended especially for growing seeds. Next week's column will be a step by step seeding guide. If you simply can't wait, sow a few pots of herb seeds - dill, basil, cress etc. If these are sown thickly in a pot the sprouts can be harvested in just a few weeks with scissors directly into your salads or soups!

On Saturday, Jan. 24, I will be teaching a special Gardening for Beginners course from 1 to 4 p.m. at Durham College, Uxbridge Campus. This is especially suitable for new homeowners who don't know a trowel from a spade! It will demystify basic terminology and

techniques and fill you with anticipation for spring. Call 1-800-461-3260 to register. Send your comments and questions to: Marjorie Mason Hogue, c/o The Uxbridge Tribune, 24 Toronto St. N., Uxbridge, Ont., L9P 1R4.



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Application For A Sale Licence
The Famous Greek
9255 Woodbine Avenue, Unit B-14, Markham

Any resident of the municipality may make written submission as to whether the issuance of the licence is in the public interest having regard to the needs and wishes of the residents. Submissions must be received no later than **February 14, 1998**. Please include your name, address and telephone number. If a petition is submitted to the Board, please identify the designated contact person.

Note:
The LLBO gives the applicant details of any objections.

Submissions to be sent to:
Licensing and Permits Branch
Liquor Licence Board of Ontario
55 Lake Shore Blvd. E., Toronto ON M5E 1A4
Fax: (416) 326-5555
E-mail at licensing@llbo.on.ca

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The Tribune

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FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CALL: Kevin Huhn 294-2699

