

Greetings gardeners, it's the perfect time to get a head start on spring. Our last set of seedlings are looking surprisingly well, so I have higher expectations for these!

As usual I would love to hear how your seeds are going, so drop me a line.

New seed planting guide:

<http://seedy.adrian.com.au/how-to-raise-seeds-2/>

Sow directly into garden:

Dwarf Orange Marigolds While marigolds are a natural pesticide for vegetable gardens, they do attract slugs in wet weather.

Prefer full sun. Plant 4" apart, grows 10 - 12" tall. Remove dead flower blooms to encourage new growth throughout the summer. Water well when it's hot.

Eggplant Long Purple The seeds should be kept in a warm, bright position, once they reach a height of about 6 inches they can be transplanted into individual pots or ground using a good quality free draining compost.

Organic Lettuce Mix Organically certified Contains a colourful mix of 'cut and come again' lettuces; mix may include 'Marvel of Four Seasons', 'Freckles', 'Salad Bowl Red', 'Salad Bowl Green', 'Buttercrunch', 'Royal Oakleaf', 'Brown Romaine', 'Green Mignonette', 'Lollo Rossa', 'Parris Is Cos'.

Depth (mm): cover with 8mm soil

Row distance apart (cm): 20cm

Position: Sunny

Details: Leave space for successive sowing. Scatter in tight rows. Water well and keep damp till sprouting. Thin to spacing 2.5 cm for salad mix or 15-20 cm for full size lettuce. Keep moist for rapid growth. Avoid watering in the head of the day.

Snowpea Oregon Sugar

A bush-type snow pea. Disease resistant and heavy cropping. Pods are great in stirfries.

Position: full sun

Germination: 7-14 days

Sow in trays:

Jalapeno

Place 2-3 seeds in each hole, in a seed tray and top with a tiny amount of compost or seedling soil. Water the soil. Keeping the soil moist is crucial until the seeds germinate. Keep the seeds in a dark place with a small amount of filtered light until sprouts appear. Regular watering will be necessary now. Occasionally turn the tray so that the plants grow upright. (They will lean toward the sun.) After 2-4 leaves form, it will be necessary to separate and repot into a larger pot.

Cabbage Savoy Verona

All cabbages are grown in the same way. Seed can be directly planted into the garden where the cabbages are to grow. However, you will get a better and more even germination rate by raising seedlings and transplanting them. In small gardens, this is also a space saver.

Depth: 10mm

Harvest when heads feel solid.

Position: full sun

Transplant by removing the first set of seed leaves and replant up to first set of true leaves.

Sunflower Sunbird

This produces a seed which is great for eating or poultry forage. They can be used as a support for climbing beans (for those who have them coming up from the last set!).

Depth: 10mm

Position: full sun

Protect seedlings from snails and slugs and grasshoppers. Birds may eat the seed out of the ground, protect until the seed has germinated, with upturned pot.

Sow in trays: (continued)

Pea Greenfeast

Heavy bearing bush shelling pea.

Position: full sun, sheltered from wind.

Depth: 2cm

Lightly mulch seed rows to prevent crusting. Water well after sowing then do not water again until seeds appear