

# Shelby County Master Gardener

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION



Volume 28, Issue 3—April 2023

## President's comments--By Jim McCracken

After Easter the 10-day weather forecast has favorable Ohio temperatures for gardening. Precipitation levels look lower than normal, that's great news as we are saturated presently. It won't be long when we all stir up the soil and plant some seeds. Remember, "Don't rush mother nature;" we could still have below freezing temperatures that could kill sensitive, tender plants. As always, Happy Gardening!

## Feed the Soil

Kitchen scraps are a valuable resource that gardeners should take advantage of. Do your part to reduce landfill waste and make your soil healthier at the same time. Options include:



### 1. Compost Pile – The four main ingredients

- Carbon-rich materials “browns” dry leaves, plant stalks, cardboard, paper
- Nitrogen rich materials “greens” untreated grass clippings, food scraps, coffee grounds
- Water (moisture)
- Air (oxygen)

A 50/50 ratio of browns to greens is best to use in a layering process. Use small twigs as a base to provide air to circulate throughout the pile. Heat must be built up (104-140 F) to breakdown materials. Turning the pile weekly will help to keep required heat. If pile is not turned, the process could require an additional 6 months to reach valuable compost. Moisture levels must be kept at a happy medium (not too wet or dry). Large amounts of compost can be obtained with this method.

Disadvantages: requires turning of the pile, animals may be attracted, smell

### 2. Worm Farm – A series of trays (usually 3-4) where red worms break down the food scraps into valuable compost. Food scraps are place in the top tray and compost is harvested in the bottom tray after 2-3 months. The fastest method

of acquiring compost. Kitchen scraps must be cut into small pieces and brown materials such as paper towels, shredded paper used.



Stirring top tray materials as they are added will provide oxygen and spaces for the worms to attack the food scraps. Moisture is required for the worms to breakdown ingredients properly. Another valuable resource besides compost is worm juice that can be applied to plants for an added boost.

Disadvantages: cost of red worms and worm farm, maintenance, smell, limited quantities of food scraps can be used.

### 3. Burying kitchen scraps/trench composting – A very easy method of adding nutrients back into the soil. This method was popular several decades ago when almost every household had a family garden. Dig a trench 12-18” deep and 12-18” wide and bury the food scraps along with paper towels or small pieces of paper/cardboard. Next, you just let nature do its’ thing, no turning of materials required.



Disadvantages: process takes longer than a worm farm, can't plant directly over trench where food scraps are buried, make sure to bury scraps deep enough or animals will dig them up.

Food scraps that should NOT be used in any method include: cooking oils, dairy products, fat based condiments, meat, tea/coffee bags, stickers on fruits and vegetables. Banana peels, coffee grinds, and egg shells are three of the best kitchen scrapes to use. Next time you are throwing away a kitchen scrap in the trash, please reconsider using one of these three methods. It will make your garden healthier and more productive. 🌱

## Coordinator's comments

By Doug Benson

As many of you know, I am now back in Sidney after spending a month and a half in Tiffin recuperating from total knee replacement surgery. The knee and muscles still are sore, especially after I do an exercise regimen, but it's getting better. Again, thanks to all for your thoughts and cards. I've even been able to mow my lawn twice using my lawn tractor – no trimming with the walk-behind yet. I'm not sure when I will begin prepping my raised beds, but what's the hurry!

Shelby County MGVs continues to move along. Our training class is almost over. Our last major event will be the field trip to Clark County on Saturday, April 22. We are still trying to finalize the details, but right now it looks like we will meet with Amy Stone at Pam Bennett's office in the morning. The Clark County MGVs are having a plants and pints sale including lunch at a local brewery, so that is a possibility for lunch. Then we will meet with Pam and Amy from 1:00 until about 3:00 for some diagnostics and a tour of the gardens at Snyder Park. Everyone is invited to attend, but you will need to let us know in advance for planning purposes. I will send out final plans as soon as we get them.

The Victory Garden seed distribution is ready to go. Most of the activity will be (or was) Saturday, April 15 – in fact, we will do all of the Shelby County libraries that day. We will also have some kits available during Jim and Russ's Gardening Series program on Thursday evening, April 13. On Saturday, April 22, packets will be available at the People's Garden and Lake Loramie State Park. In Auglaize County, seeds will be handed out Thursday, April 13, and Saturday, April 15. April 15 will also be the day for the libraries in St. Marys and New Bremen. We will probably hand out any leftovers at the Extension office. As noted earlier, Mercer County received their own allotment of 300 kits, and have made their own plans. Thanks to all the volunteers and trainees who have stepped up to assist with this project.

**Break in the action!** I tested positive for another round of Covid. Isolating last week and masking this week, if I am symptom-free. I'll do what I can from home.

We are getting a lot of requests for help with youth activities. I will present the at this week's meeting. This will be a great opportunity for our new class to begin getting volunteer hours. Another opportunity for

hours will be the hotline that starts May 1, and runs every Monday and Thursday from May through September. You will now be able to sign up on HOC by going to the calendar in the My Counties section. Just click on the date you are interested in and follow the directions. There is a three-person limit for each date. It is important that experienced MGVs sign up with the new folks. I have only posted dates for May and June to see how it works. Let me know if you have questions or problems.

At the April meeting, we will discuss and try to make a decision about transferring our funds to be "under the OSU umbrella." Please read the article elsewhere in this newsletter. At the request of several members, we expect to use a written ballot to vote. Those attending by Zoom will be able to use a "private message." Only active members will participate in the voting, but our new folks are encouraged to participate in the discussion.

I'm going to end this message now and take a break. Keep well and enjoy this great weather. 🍀

**April Membership Meeting  
Wednesday, April 19, 2023 @ 2:00 p.m.  
Extension Office**

## To change, or not to change

By Doug Benson

In my "Coordinator's comments, I mentioned the possibility of changing our SCMG financial governance by moving our self-administered funds from Minster Bank to be "under the umbrella" of The Ohio State University. This is not a new topic; in fact, some of us were discussing it three years ago when Covid-19 stopped everything. It is our organization and our money, so it is important for everyone to understand the several considerations and implications about making such a change. Included with the newsletter is a chart comparing the two structures. Please read over the information and be prepared for discussion.

We will set aside time during the meeting to answer questions; and if/when everyone is clear on the implications, we will vote on whether to change or not. The vote will be by written ballot. According to our constitution, a majority of members present will rule. Only currently "active" members are eligible to vote. Those attending on Zoom will be able to vote using the "private" feature of the "chat" box. Note: To conduct business, we need a quorum; our constitution says that is 30 percent of the members. Thus, we will need 7 members (30% of 23). 🍀

**DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OUR “SEPARATE ACCOUNT” AND BEING “UNDER THE UMBRELLA”**

<b>QUESTION</b>	<b>CURRENT SYSTEM</b>	<b>UNDER THE UMBRELLA</b>
Who “owns” the funds?	Shelby County Master Gardeners (SCMG)	Shelby County Master Gardeners (SCMG)
Where are the funds?	SCMG checking account in local bank	Part will be in Shelby County Extension office checking account. Part will be on deposit with OSU in Columbus.
Who takes care of the books?	SCMG treasurer (position changes hands every year or two)	Shelby County Extension office staff under Matt’s direction
What is the role of the SCMG treasurer?	Receive and keep account of all monies, authorized to sign checks, pay bills, report monthly to the membership, maintain membership list	Act as liaison between membership and appropriate office personnel, get monthly statements from the office and report to the membership, maintain membership list
Who collects/deposits money (dues, registrations, donations, etc.)?	Treasurer, with checks made payable to Shelby County Master Gardeners	Treasurer or office staff as jointly determined, but all checks made payable to OSU Extension Shelby County with SCMG in memo line. Receipts provided per office rules.
Who authorizes expenditures and pays the bills?	Expenditures are normally pre-authorized by the membership, and the treasurer writes the checks upon receipt of supporting paperwork	The treasurer will provide receipts, invoices, etc. to the office staff, who will then follow office protocols to make payments from either the locally maintained checking account or the funds on deposit with OSU
How long does it take for reimbursement of personal expenditures made on behalf of SCMG?	If previously authorized and adequate receipts are presented, the treasurer typically makes payments right away.	This will depend on whether the payment comes from the local office checking account or the holdings in Columbus. It is possible that some purchases can be made using the office purchasing card, in which case, no personal funds are even needed.
Are the records audited annually?	Yes, the treasurer presents to year’s documents to the ANR educator for inspection in January. The results are reported to the membership in February.	The office financial records are examined by OSU personnel. A report about the SCMG account will be given to the treasurer to share with the membership.
What about state and Federal tax requirements?	Treasurer is responsible for compliance and our FEIN	The office staff will be responsible for compliance with all pertinent regulations
What is our non-profit status? Do we have to pay sales tax? What about soliciting or receiving “tax deductible” donations?	We are obviously “not for profit” but we do not have Federal 501c3 status and are not entitled to sales tax exemption. While we welcome gifts, donors are NOT entitled to a tax deduction	OSU Extension does have tax-exempt, so we should be able to avoid sales tax on some purchases. Matt will provide proper procedures. Using OSU foundation accounts, we should be able to solicit/accept tax deductible donations.
Can we apply for grants for a special project?	We never have because most are limited to 501c3 non-profits.	We will be able to use the University’s non-profit status to qualify for such eligibility for some grants.
Can we get group-purchasing discounts?	Probably not, especially on OSU branded apparel.	Yes, with university approved contracts
Could we receive a major donation for a project?	“Major” is the operative word. There might be legal and /or tax implications. We would have to seek out our own support.	OSU would have experienced staff who could provide legal and other support for such a situation.

## DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OUR “SEPARATE ACCOUNT” AND BEING “UNDER THE UMBRELLA”

QUESTION	CURRENT SYSTEM	UNDER THE UMBRELLA
Where do we get legal advice about contracts for facility rentals?	We would need to secure it and pay for it from our own treasury.	OSU Legal department provides such help.
We’ve been told that if something “bad” happens at an SMGV event, the officers and/or committee chairs can be sued. Is this true?	We are supposed to be covered by OSU insurance as long as we are performing under the job description, but injured party can sue anyone, and it’s unclear what OSU Legal would do because they provide counsel only to those under the umbrella.	Being under the umbrella enables us to receive legal support from OSU.

### Garden Stats

Submitted by Ann Heeley

These statistics are not going to blow your mind, but I thought some of them were interesting. They came from “Today’s Homeowner”, an online resource for everything from landscaping to window treatments to can openers. I can’t vouch for their reliability (although they do list source information), but here are a few:

1. The most popular houseplant of 2022 was the Philodendron. <sup>1</sup>
2. 86% of home gardeners grow tomatoes in their vegetable garden. <sup>2</sup>
3. The average U.S. garden produces \$600 worth of food. <sup>2</sup>
4. Flowers, veggies, and houseplants are the most popular types of gardening activities. <sup>3</sup>
5. One in five of the world’s plants — 4,400 in the U.S. — are at risk of extinction. <sup>4</sup>
6. In 2022, there were 52,793,657 trees planted. <sup>5</sup>
7. The No. 1 most hated garden chore in U.S. households is weeding. <sup>6</sup>
8. Gnomes were the biggest garden trend of 2022. <sup>7</sup>
9. In 2021, the U.S. city with the most community gardens per 1,000 residents was Portland, OR. <sup>17</sup>
10. 79% of American gardeners take gardening advice from online sources. <sup>6</sup>
11. From 2019 to 2020, the U.S. was the largest importer of gardening tools at \$93.5 million <sup>8</sup>
12. Plant costs rose by 8–13% in 2021. <sup>9</sup>
13. The U.S. garden hand tool market is expected to grow at 2.5% yearly, from USD 3131.91 million in 2020 to 3632 million by 2026. <sup>10</sup>
14. 43.6% of all gardeners are women, while 56.4% are men. <sup>12</sup>
15. The average age group range for gardeners is 35–44. <sup>16</sup>
16. Container gardening is the No. 1 way 34–45-year-old gardeners prefer to garden. <sup>6</sup>
17. In food gardening, the second most popular vegetables to grow are cucumbers, followed by sweet peppers. <sup>16</sup>
18. One in three respondents (32%) stated they would purchase mostly or all organic products for their garden. <sup>15</sup>
19. One in three U.S. adults (34%) purchase plants to help wildlife, up 26% in 2020. <sup>15</sup>
20. One in four people (25%) buys native plants, up 17% in 2020. <sup>15</sup>
21. The number of people adding wildflower native landscapes doubled from 9% in 2019 to 19% in 2021. <sup>15</sup>

<https://todayshomeowner.com/lawn-garden/guides/top-gardening-statistics/>

# GROWING MICROGREENS

By Janet Nelson



In the mid of Ohio winter it is fun to plant and growing something...anything. But to grow nutritious and fresh green vegetable indoors makes it even better! Microgreens are often called “vegetable

confetti,” adding flavor, texture, and color to meals. They can be added to salad, soups, wraps, pizza and sandwiches. Or they can be used as a colorful garnish.

Microgreens are defined by Clemson University as “small leafy vegetables harvested just as true leaves begin to form; usually while they are between one to three inches tall.” Do not confuse with sprouts because microgreens are grown in soil and roots are not consumed. Depending on the plant, microgreens can be harvested in 7-21 days after planting. They do not take up much room and can be grown in a sunny area of the house, with a growing light, sun room or even outdoor as the weather permits.

Grow the little green morsels in purchased shallow trays, or a clean recycled clam shells from the grocery, with holes punched in bottom. It is recommended to use a seed starting soilless mix or coconut coir. Because you will water from the bottom, a saucer larger than the seed tray is also needed.

There are a wide variety of vegetables and herbs that can be used to grow microgreens. Generally, they consist of any of the herbs and popular leafy greens and immature root and legume vegetables. Use caution to plant and consume only plants leaves and stems that are safe to eat. Here is a short list from South Dakota State University. (There are others, personally sunflowers are one of my favorites and next to try is sweet corn.)

Arugula	Cabbage	Kale
Celery	Basil	Mustard
Chard	Beans	Peas
Cilantro	Broccoli	Radish
Fennel	Beets	

Purchase untreated seeds or USDA certified organic seeds since the young shoots of these plants are eaten and you want to avoid dyes, fungicides or insecticides that were applied to the many seeds. Often you will be able to find blends of different kinds of seed to provide a mild or spicy blend of plants that also come in a variety of colors to not only for the taste, but also brighten up your next salad. Keep in mind that you will heavily seed the flat, thus seed sold in bulk or for microgreens may be more cost effective.

## The steps to growing microgreens:

- Begin by filling the shallow tray (1 -2” deep with drainage holes) nearly full of growing medium
- Sow seeds thickly over the surface and gently press into the soil for good contact. Larger seeds can be lightly covered with potting soil. (It may be beneficial to soak seeds with a hard husk e.g. peas, corn, sunflowers 8-10 hours prior to planting.) The larger seeds can be planted ½-1 inch apart.
- The seeds that are not covered with soil should be covered to keep dark. This is to simulate the dark as if they are underground. The larger seeds can be covered with clear plastic covers or plastic wrap to create a warm, moist environment like a mini-greenhouse.
- Use a spray bottle to keep the growing medium moist especially for the small seeds with no soil coverage. Keep them in the dark until germination occurs. For some seeds this is only 2-3 days.
- Place the trays under a grow light or a simple fluorescent light bulb. Keep the light a couple inches above the new sprouts.
- Once the seeds are growing, evaluate the soil. Once the growing medium is drying out then water from the bottom until soil is saturated. (Spraying now will increase chances of mold growth)



Many of the microgreens are ready to be harvested in 7-10



days. Snip plants just above the soil line with clean scissors when greens reach desired size. Harvesting microgreens is a one-cut process, but because they grow so quickly you can have a constant supply of

microgreens with two small flats.

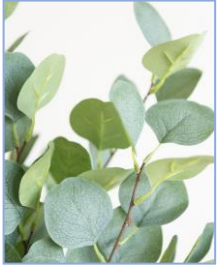
Store the microgreens in a plastic storage bag or container in the refrigerator. As with any fresh vegetable, always wash microgreens before consuming them.

Growing microgreens is an excellent opportunity to “play in the dirt” and have a quick, nutritious, appetizing vegetable/herb to add to our menu in the middle of winter (or anytime of the year).

## STARTING EUCALYPTUS PLANTS FROM SEED – MY EXPERIMENT – PART 1

By Jill Dickman, [jilldjed@gmail.com](mailto:jilldjed@gmail.com)

Master Gardener Volunteer Trainee/2023



Last summer, I attended the Farm Science Review with my husband. While he participated in the farm offerings, I was interested in the gardening and flower talks. At a ‘flowers’ talk, several women encouraged me to start eucalyptus plants from seed. ‘Purchase the seed early,’ they said, ‘or it will be gone.’ (Evidently, the 2020 wildfires in Australia affected [and continues to affect in 2023] the eucalyptus seed supply.)

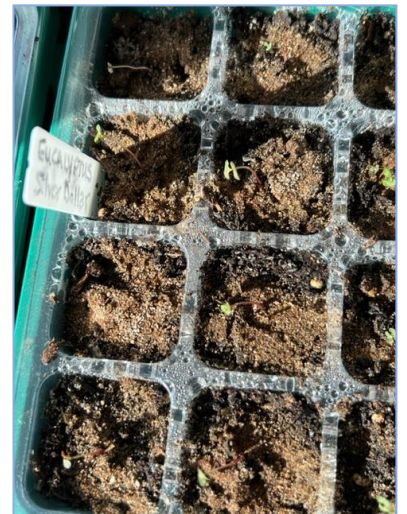
So, in January, I ordered two kinds of eucalyptus seeds from Johnny’s Selected Seeds (their recommended vendor). Silver Dollar Eucalyptus is a traditional-looking variety while Lemon Bush Eucalyptus has sword-shaped leaves that turn red in late summer/fall. Lemon Bush is less durable than the standard Silver Dollar eucalyptus and has a strong citronella fragrance. Eucalyptus is a perennial in Zones 9-11 but is not hardy in our Zone 6A/B. Used in flower arrangements and wreaths, the eucalyptus foliage is harvestable after leaves start to feel leathery. The foliage can be preserved with glycerin.

As direct seeding is not recommended, instructions on the seed packets said to sow seed into cell trays or open flats 10 to 12 weeks before the frost free date. I planted the seeds on March 6<sup>th</sup>, placed them on a heat mat (24 hours per day) and grow lights (12 hours per day through the night). They were placed in a west-facing window. Johnny’s instructions said the seeds are slow to germinate and may take 14 to 21 days. Mine germinated in 7-8 days. I removed the plastic covers to find mold on the potting mixture. I removed what mold I could remove, then added a light covering of sand and cinnamon. There was no sign of damping off as I believe I removed the plastic covers as soon as germination occurred. I planted 24 seeds of both varieties, and I’m pleased to say that 20 or 22 seeds from both germinated.

Once all the seeds had germinated, I turned off the heat matt. I placed a small oscillating fan nearby for a portion of the day to increase air circulation and hopefully strengthen the stems of the plants. I was told the grow lights need to be 5 inches above the seedlings and the fan needs to be close enough to make the leaves flutter. Every morning I move the six cell trays so that each receives the same amount of exposure to light and air circulation on a three-day rotation.

While the seeds germinated earlier than expected, the seedlings are very slow growing. And as of March 24<sup>th</sup> (18 days after planting) the seedlings appear to be healthy, but they are growing slowly. Hopefully this means the roots are establishing. I’ll start fertilizing when the second set of leaves start to appear.

This is only my second time attempting to start flowers from seed. Last year, I planted seeds without the benefit of a grow light and heat matt. My seedlings were spindly and weak and fell over and died. This year, with the grow light/heat lamp combination, a fan, and more daily attention to the seedlings, I’m hoping for a better outcome. I would appreciate your recommendations and advice – please email me at the email listed below my name.



I hope this experiment works! I will keep you updated via this newsletter on their progress! My goal is to plant these eucalyptus plants outside in my containers and garden for eventual cuttings and wreaths, and to share with friends and family members. I love greenery almost as much as flowers and may not even add flowers to my bouquets! 🌿

## The People's Garden—April update

By Conelia Dixon

At The People's Garden we are so anxious to get boots on the ground, hands in the soil, and to feel those aching muscles, well maybe not the aching muscles, but we know it is inevitable. This too, shall pass. Michelle, Deb, Annette, Yuka, and I are driven to get the garden beds ready, and the seeds planted. We are starting to plant more seeds at home this year to not have to purchase so many plants, plus it allows us to see the seeds sprouting sooner. You know how it is, bending halfway over and squinting at the soil to try to see the sprouting. I talk to my seedlings and today my daughter came over and told the cucumber seedlings that they were, "big little guys." She has learned something from me, I guess.

Annette has started two types of hot peppers, I have beefsteak tomatoes that are beginning to peek up at me, rosemary that will take its good time, cucumbers (lots of them), swan gourds and bird house gourds for my home garden, and poblano peppers for Agape Garden. Today I received in the mail bushel basket gourd seeds for my friend in Michigan, who does not have a long enough growing time, so I will try to grow her a bushel basket.

We try to do companion planting and this year we are increasing the use of this method of planting. We are planting carrots and basil with tomatoes, beans with marigolds, and lettuce under the okra. One experiment is that we are trying straw bale gardening. I haven't heard of great success with this, but we need to try it since the idea is out there and people are interested in odd things.

The squash bugs always give us fits, so we are going full tilt with the defense this year, and hope to raise more winter squash for the pantry shoppers. It is a good substantial winter food for them. We will use row covers when planting, use diatomaceous earth, plant hot peppers with squash, check daily for eggs and use masking tape to take them off. We have a new hand vacuum to suck up the bugs with if (when) we see any. Not sure where to empty the vacuum yet. I think soapy water, gasoline and a match will work. Just kidding. To say the least, we are very serious this time.

Missy, one of the fresh, new Master Gardener Trainees came to visit the garden and offered to come and volunteer once a week. The youth from Connection Point Church will come sometime and hopefully soon. One of their jobs is to pick up all the million sticks that

fall from the trees into the garden. That big cottonwood must go!

We have more teaching going on lately. Last week we were at S&H teaching 10 people that work there how to transplant house plants. That was very fun, lots of soil, water, laughter, and success for all involved. We are also teaching Whittier school preschoolers how to garden. The People's Garden donated two metal raised beds and seeds for the children to plant and take care of. We took time to go to the class of 12 preschool children and tell them about gardening. The little ones were especially interested in seeing pictures of insects. The one of the assassin bug killing a Japanese beetle was a big hit. Lots of "oohs, and aahs." It was very enjoyable with the little ones and their teachers.

Open House is on April 22, 2023. The People's Garden will be at the Farmer's Market once a month this summer, with a teaching opportunity. Oh, and we are looking for some bird houses for the garden since ours are worn out. The birds do a fabulous job for us helping control insects. The flowers of different sizes and types help too. We have not had any tomato worms nor any Japanese beetles for two years! If you know of anyone who has extra birdhouses, send them our way, please! 🌱



## Short April Quotes and Sayings

**Spring weather is a welcome relief after months of cold, dark winter days! Use these super-short sayings to let everyone know how glad you are that April is finally here.**

- **April soothes my soul.**
- **April is in the air.**
- **April springs eternal.**
- **April is a time for growth.**
- **Springing into action this April.**
- **April comes to those who wait.**
- **April: The birds are back in town.**
- **April signals a green light to summer.**
- **Blooming with excitement for April showers!**
- **April Showers: Brightening the world one flower at a time. 🌱**

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## Erratic April

By Ann Heeley

April is such an erratic month for gardening in Ohio. One day it's sunny and warm, the next day it's windy and sleeting. The only thing certain is that the dandelions, clover, and crabgrass will flourish no matter what the weather gods have in store.

So how about starting some flower and vegetable seeds, bulbs, and tubers indoors? A few things that I've found to be helpful:

- a sturdy table or bench with a floor beneath that doesn't mind getting wet or dirty
- heat mats
- grow lights or some type of light that can be directed on flats or containers
- easy access to water
- seed-starting mix rather than garden soil or potting mix
- cinnamon to discourage fungus gnats

Here are 3 plants I start indoors and don't move outdoors until late May or June...gradually, of course.

**Caladium** – I plant tubers from last year in 4" pots and cover with ½ - 1" of mix. I always buy extras from various sources since I'm a sucker for caladiums, but I start them at the same time. I water them in well and am careful to be sparing with water after that since the tuber may turn to mush. Sprinkling the soil with cinnamon discourages fungus gnats. Caladiums seem to take forever to sprout, and until they do, I don't need to keep them under grow lights, but I keep them on heating mats until they're ready to plant outdoors in the ground or in containers. Regardless of what the label says, caladiums do NOT like full sun, especially in the afternoon.



**Tomatoes** – in 3" pots; cover with ¼" mix and water in well; tomatoes love the heat, so keep them on heating mats and keep the lights on for 16 hours per day after the seeds sprout; sprinkle with cinnamon to discourage fungus gnats.



**Bell Peppers** – I love the colorful varieties that are offered at garden centers and online, so I grow red, yellow, orange, purple, and sometimes white. I buy the green ones at Kroger since I don't use as many of them. I plant pepper seeds the same way as tomato seeds.



And here's one I also start in the spring, but not always indoors:

**Lupine** – Next to caladiums, Lupines are my favorites. I've started these indoors, but lupine seeds are easy to start outdoors, too, regardless of the ugly weather. I soak a paper towel in hydrogen peroxide, throw in some lupine seeds, fold the towel in half, shove it into a zip-loc bag, and let the bag sit in a warm place—like a heat mat. In a few days or up to a week, I open the bag to see if any of the seeds have begun to sprout. I use a blunt end tweezer to either place the seeds with little tails (roots) into containers indoors or plant them directly outside in a shallow hole. Cover seeds with about ¼" of soil if planted indoors and keep the soil moist. When planted outside, let Mother Nature take care of things. Just make sure they're in a sunny area. For the seeds inside the paper towel that haven't yet sprouted, I give them a few more days to see what happens. If they sprout, I plant them. If they don't, I write them off as a lost cause and pitch the baggie. Lupines are technically perennials, but in our Zone 6 gardens, unless they love the place they call home, they tend to be short lived. And just a warning about buying lupine plants: Dig a very deep hole when planting, and be careful when removing a lupine from its container. It has a very long taproot that doesn't like to be disturbed and may react badly when taken out of its nursery pot. Treat with kid gloves or start from seed. 🌱





Recommended By	Garden Center	Recommended By	Garden Center
Suzann Lonsbury Doris Hibner (favorite) Ann Heeley	Amherst Greenhouse 644 County Road 126 (off Rt 117) Harrod Ohio 45850 419 648-6527 <a href="https://amherstgreenhouse.com">https://amherstgreenhouse.com</a> Opens April 16 <sup>th</sup> \$11 flats of vegie plants, seed potatoes, sweet potato slips, onion starts, selection of ferns, bedding plants by flat, bulk veg. seeds; on Facebook	Suzann Lonsbury Pam Carter	Siegel's Country Store 242 E Broadway (US 36) Covington Ohio 45318 937 473-2808 Monday – Friday 8-6 Saturday 8-4 Closed Sunday Has heirloom tomato plants they grow themselves.
Suzann Lonsbury Nancy Russell Linda Jennings Ann Rhyan	Andy's Garden 2310 W. Market St (Rt 55) Troy Ohio 45373 937 335-5550 <a href="https://andysgarden.com">https://andysgarden.com</a> M-F 9-6, Sa 9-5, Sun 10-5	Teresa Freisthler (favorite) Mary Delzeith	Star Greenhouse 13619 US RT 127N North Star OH 45350 419-336-7405
Suzann Lonsbury Teresa Freisthler Nancy Russell Ann Heeley	Blue Acre Gardens 200 Bulle Road Piqua Ohio 45356 937 418-5840 <a href="http://www.blueacregardens.com/home.html">http://www.blueacregardens.com/home.html</a> Opens April 17 <sup>th</sup> -June 5 Monday – Saturday 10-6 Closed Sunday also on Facebook	Mary Delzeith	Nature Green Nursery 2335 SR 119 Fort Recovery OH
		Mary Delzeith	Western Ohio True Value Hardware. 702 N Eastern Ave., Saint Henry OH
Teresa Freisthler Nancy Russell Ann Heeley	Crossway Farms Greenhouse (street/alley behind Sidney Cassano's) 117 Front St. Sidney OH 45365 937-210-1590 <a href="https://crosswayfarms.com/">https://crosswayfarms.com/</a>	Ann Rhyan	Sidney Hardware N. Main St., Sidney OH 45365
		Ann Rhyan	Shelby Landscaping 2150 St. Marys Ave., S Rt. 29 Sidney OH 45365 <a href="https://shelbylandscaping.com">https://shelbylandscaping.com</a>
Suzann Lonsbury Cheryl Michael (favorite) Ann Heeley	Meadow View Growers 755 Dayton-Lakeview Rd (St Rt 235 N) New Carlisle Ohio 45344 937 845-0093 <a href="http://meadowview.com/">http://meadowview.com/</a> Mar M-Sa 9-5, closed Sun Apr-June M-F 7-7, Sa 7-5	Ann Rhyan	Anna FFA greenhouse or online sale
		Ann Rhyan	Hardin Houston FFA greenhouse, or online, starts April
Suzann Lonsbury	Natorp's Nursery 8601 Snider Road Cincinnati Ohio 45040 Open March 31 <sup>st</sup> (333-acre plant nursery) <a href="https://natorp.com/nursery">https://natorp.com/nursery</a>	Ann Rhyan	Kah Nursery 17447 Pasco-Montra Rd Botkins, Ohio 45306 <a href="https://www.kahnursery.com">https://www.kahnursery.com</a>

Recommended By	Online Sources
Ann Heeley	<p><u>Totally Tomatoes</u>, <a href="https://www.totallytomato.com/">https://www.totallytomato.com/</a>  A great source for heirloom tomato and pepper seeds (plus hybrids) in addition to fruits, vegetables, herbs, and grafted plants; orders are shipped quickly, and they always include an extra packet of tomato seeds that are worth trying; AAS (All-America Selections) winners are highlighted; online and mail-order catalog available</p>
Ann Heeley	<p><u>Classic Viburnums</u>, <a href="https://www.classicviburnums.com/">https://www.classicviburnums.com/</a>  Gary and Sue Ladman sell only one type of plant: viburnum; they grow and propagate over 200 varieties, and their website is very comprehensive; Gary responds personally to phone calls and emails about viburnums, even if your question concerns a viburnum that you didn't purchase from him; prices are very reasonable, and quality is superb</p>
Ann Heeley	<p><u>John Scheeper's Beauty from Bulbs</u>, <a href="https://www.johnscheepers.com/">https://www.johnscheepers.com/</a>  The healthiest and biggest bulbs (except for caladium) I buy some from this company; vast selection of tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, allium, and hundreds of other bulbs are available; interesting and informative newsletter; online and mail order catalogue available</p>
Ann Heeley	<p><u>Easy to Grow Bulbs</u>, <a href="https://www.easytogrowbulbs.com/">https://www.easytogrowbulbs.com/</a>  In spite of the name, this company sells an eclectic assortment of bulbs, houseplants, fruits and vegetables, succulents, perennials, and potted plants; informative newsletters have colorful photos and great ideas; garden blog online; frequent free shipping events and sales; one drawback is daily emails from the company (use a separate email address to avoid inbox clogging)</p>
Ann Heeley	<p><u>Hartmann's Plant Company</u>, <a href="https://hartmannsplantcompany.com/">https://hartmannsplantcompany.com/</a>  Michigan-based company specializing in berries (including 26 varieties of blueberries), so all of their plants can be grown in our Zone 6; wholesale and retail operation; Hartmann's grows and propagates all of their plants on site; shipping can be a little expensive, but their plants are guaranteed; the company welcomes tours of their labs, greenhouses, and nurseries</p>
Pam Carter	<p><u>Sand Hill Preservation Center</u>, <a href="https://www.sandhillpreservation.com">https://www.sandhillpreservation.com</a> (heirloom seeds)  Heirloom Seeds &amp; Poultry  1878 230th Street, Calamus, IA 52729  (563) 246-2299</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accept orders via mail with payment in the form of check or money order.</li> <li>• Provide rare varieties that are difficult to find elsewhere.</li> <li>• Offer assistance when looking for a rare and unusual variety.</li> <li>• Grow around 80% of the seed we sell.</li> </ul>
Carol Strayer	<p><u>Garden Crossings</u>, <a href="https://www.gardencrossings.com">https://www.gardencrossings.com</a>  <u>Zeeland MI</u></p>
Carol Strayer	<p><u>Bluestone Perennials</u>, <a href="https://www.bluestoneperennials.com">https://www.bluestoneperennials.com</a></p>