

# BASICS OF DIRECT SEED SOWING

Toledo GROWs Best Practices—Tending a Garden

## Prepare to sow seeds

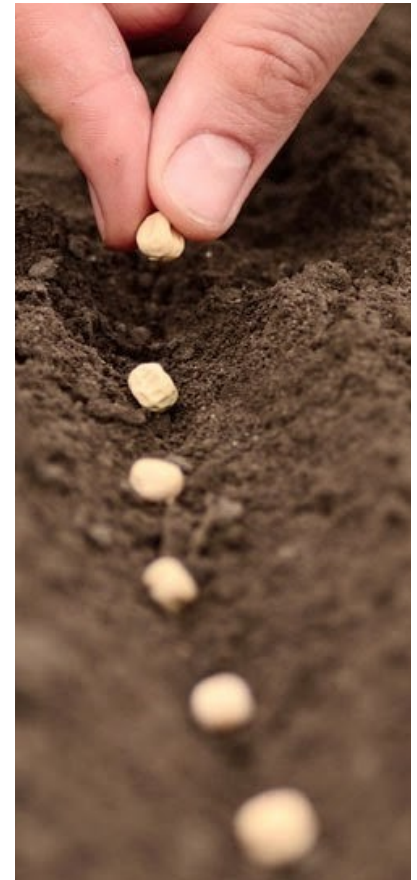
- Refer to the back of each seed packet and follow specific seed sowing dates and temperature ranges for each type of seed being planted
- Remove all weeds from the garden soil
- Loosen the soil and add compost if needed

## Direct sowing seeds

1. Make a shallow trench in the soil, following the depth recommended on each seed packet
2. Set some soil aside to cover seeds after planting
3. Wet down the trench
4. Press the seeds into the moistened trench and cover with the soil. Take care to not cover them too deeply, because the tiny first plant shoot can only reach up so high to break through the soil surface. Pay close attention to the depth to plant on each seed packet.
5. Wet the area again with a light sprinkling of water, but not so much that the seeds float around.
6. Keep the soil moist for the most successful germination. The hard outer seed coating must be softened by water so the tiny plant can eventually break through the outer coating. Consult the seed packet for germination time ranges.
7. Once germination occurs keep seedlings moist. The tiny plant's first root can reach down just into the top layer of the soil. That top layer tends to dry out quickly, so keep the soil around the seedling moist until it has at least three sets of leaves.

## Maintenance

- As plants grow it is important to water regularly. Visit our website for the Basic Vegetable Garden Watering tip sheet.
- As temperatures get warmer (summer) or cooler (fall) adjust your watering schedule, as your plants' water needs will change.
- Weed weekly -Visit our website for the Basic Vegetable Garden Weed Management tip sheet



## Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services

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