

Grow seeds at home

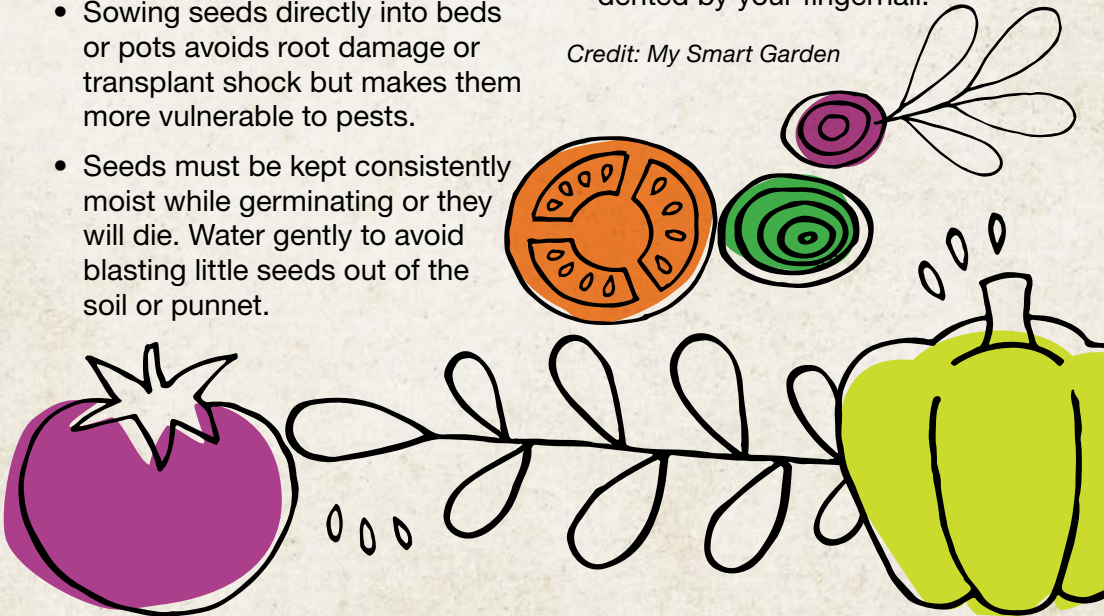
Growing seeds

- Sowing seeds in punnets makes it easier to keep seeds moist and protected from pests.
- Use good quality seed raising mix, or three parts sandy soil (or potting/seed raising mix) to one part compost or worm castings.
- Poke holes no deeper than twice the width of the seed and sow a seed in each hole. Cover with the soil mix and water the seeds gently.
- Seeds can be kept indoors for extra warmth until they sprout, then moved outdoors or to a sunny window sill. Seeds will be ready to plant in about six weeks.
- Sowing seeds directly into beds or pots avoids root damage or transplant shock but makes them more vulnerable to pests.
- Seeds must be kept consistently moist while germinating or they will die. Water gently to avoid blasting little seeds out of the soil or punnet.

Collecting seeds

- Keep the best! By saving seed from your best plants, you will breed plants that are perfectly suited to local conditions.
- Ensure the seed is fully mature before harvest so that it has gained maximum strength from the parent plant.
- Remove the 'chaff' – the stems, leaves and pods that are gathered along with seeds – before storage as it can harbour pests and disease.
- Seeds must be properly dried before storage or they will be destroyed by mould or premature sprouting. Dry seeds that are ready for storage will not be dented by your fingernail.

Credit: My Smart Garden



Donating seeds

- Return your collected seeds to the Seed Library for others in the community to grow and enjoy.
- Some simple information about your donated seeds will help us prepare them for others to grow. This includes the plant name, variety, date of harvest, and the suburb harvested from.
- You can use an envelope, glass jar or paper bag to return your seeds to any library branch, along with a completed Donation Form.
- Donation Forms can be downloaded from stonnington.vic.gov.au/Library/Seed-library

My Smart Garden

For resources to help you grow and collect seeds, join the free sustainable gardening program My Smart Garden.

My Smart Garden helps you grow food and transform your outdoor spaces into a beautiful, productive and resilient garden, year round. The program is supported by the City of Stonnington along with the cities of Brimbank, Hobsons Bay, Maribyrnong, Moonee Valley, Merri-bek, Wyndham and Yarra.

For more information, visit mysmartgarden.org.au



Visit us

stonnington.vic.gov.au/Library/Seed-library

Seed Library locations

Malvern Library

1255 High Street, Malvern 8290 1366

Phoenix Park Library

30 Rob Roy Road, Malvern East 8290 4000

Prahran Square Library

Prahran Square 8290 3344
(Northern end), Prahran

Toorak/South Yarra Library

340 Toorak Road, South Yarra 8290 8000

Grow your gardening know-how with our range of gardening and sustainable living events.

We acknowledge we are on the Traditional Lands of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong peoples of the East Kulin Nations and pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

We extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We acknowledge their living connection to Country, relationship with the land and all living things extending back tens of thousands of years.

