



SET THE TABLE FROM YOUR GARDEN



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We look forward to hearing from you.
Best Wishes,
Renee Shepherd



March 2015

Using Recycled Containers For Seed Starting



You don't need to have a fancy set up to successfully grow your garden seedlings. Many people have that one cabinet or drawer full of plastic containers that have lost their lids, a stack of yogurt cups that have long been forgotten or the clear plastic "clamshell" containers that you've kept around, and maybe an empty plastic milk jug or two. Disposable containers can receive new life by using them to start seeds.

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March in the Trial Garden
by Lindsay Del Carlo, Trial Garden Manager

This winter has been very mild in our Northern California climate. Our spring trials of Brassica



family members includes early, mid and late season Broccolis, German pointed cabbages, and Asian cauliflower seedlings are almost ready to plant out. These brassicas love cool weather and germinate easily in a sheltered place outside as long as it is not too cold. We use an outdoor table with a bird netting PVC structure over the top of it to keep out the hungry birds off the seedlings.

We also are trialing many nice spring greens like several varieties of baby leaf spinach, and a Swiss Chard variety for baby leaf style harvesting. These varieties were direct sown right into the cool spring garden beds. Row cover both insulates the plants from cold and encourages faster growth and also acts as a barrier against the dreaded leaf miner which makes holes in the leaves.



Tomatoes, peppers and eggplant all need heat to get started, so they are in the greenhouse germinating with heat mats underneath them. After seedlings are established, they will be transplanted into larger individual containers, so they can "grow on" to get acclimated to the outside when the nights reach 50°F (10°C) before planting into permanent garden's spots.



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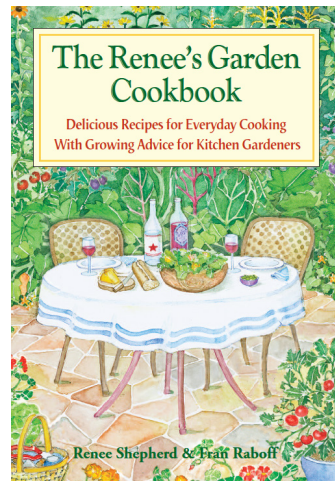
The very best way to get a head start on bulb onions' long growing season is to begin with pre-started plants. Onions grown this way can get ahead of the weeds and bulb up and keep much better than store-bought "sets". Order Now!



The Recipe of Month:

Fresh Orange Salad Dressing

The fresh orange flavor comes through in this light and refreshing dressing that will really make your spring salad greens sing.



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