May 2015

This Season’s Top 2 Seed Starting Problems
by Beth Benjamin, Horticultural Advisor

We appreciate hearing from anyone who has a problem with their seeds, but early in the season when I get an email that says: “my peas and lettuce are up fine, but the cucumber seeds must be bad because they didn’t germinate,” it’s a good indication that the outdoor temperatures at their garden, especially at night, were simply too cool for the heat lovers like cucumbers. I often hear back a week or two later that the cucumber seeds have come up, it just took longer than expected!

So be strong: resist the temptation to sow seeds of heat loving varieties into your garden until the soil has warmed up and spring weather conditions are warm and settled with outdoor night temperatures consistently in the 50-55°F (10-13°C) range. Rest assured that seeds planted when conditions are warm enough will catch up and surpass stressed seedlings that were planted too early. Don't be fooled by a long warm weekend - wait until the weather has truly warmed up. Read More...

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

Many of our spring trials are now maturing and ready to harvest. Especially noteworthy is the Mini Purple Daikon from Japan that is proved very easy to grow, reaching 3 to 4 inches long, with crispy smooth texture and a delicious, mildly spicy flavor similar to spring radishes. Next, we will grow them again, planting, for a fall harvest, and also evaluate the variety in our Vermont trial garden.

We also just concluded a spring trial of spinach to evaluate new varieties. The 3 shown here all had a wonderful flavor: nutty and buttery, with full body and great texture and all three grew vigorously with rich green, easy to harvest leaves.

It's finally been warm enough at night to plant out all eight varieties of the Thai Chile plants that we started indoors in our greenhouse. These varieties are from a new seed grower, so we will be evaluating them to see which ones have the best production, and taste.

As our customers already know, vegetable and flower varieties specifically for container growing are a major focus for our company. With the weather warms up, we just planted our trial of different container eggplants that will bear, shiny, rounded fruit in various colors. These attractive and compact eggplants make very ornamental container plants, perfect for small patio gardens.
Come Visit Often!
Please visit our website to view our articles and online catalog.

Baked Spinach Gnocchi
An easy to make version of this classic Italian delicacy.

What's On Renee's Blog
Tips for gardening in the drought. Enjoy your garden and conserve water!