


Upcoming Programs

Winter 2024

 **February 20**
6:30-7:30pm

Local Eats: Winter Soups
Centereach

 **March 21**
6:30-8:00pm

Seed Showcase and Exchange
Centereach

If you are saving seeds from your garden and want to donate them to the seed library, please make sure seeds are cleaned, and properly labeled. Seeds can be dropped off at the Adult Reference Desk attention: Amber Gagliardi.



Last year we had over 715 patrons borrow seeds, we know 2024 will be our best year yet. We are happy to see our MCPL gardening and seed saving community is growing each year!

Visit our Seed Library webpage for more information.
<https://www.mcplibrary.org/adults/seed-library>



#MCPLSeedLibrary



MCPL SEED LIBRARY

SEASONAL LEAFLET

Winter 2024



Issue 5

Hello GARDENERS



About the Seed Library

The MCPL Seed Library started in 2018. Since its inception the Seed Library has grown in popularity and size; we now offer over 50 varieties of vegetables, herbs and flowers. We are always exploring new seeds to add to our collection. This year, we will be adding Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) and other native flowers like Columbine, Tiger Paw Aster, and Northeast Native Wildflower Seed Mix. These seeds along with many others will be available by March just in time for the Spring!

New Seeds

It's a new year for the Seed Library and we are happy to announce we will be offering eight new vegetables and four new flower seeds. Tomatoes continue to be one of our most popular seeds checked out by patrons, so we've added two more choices for this year: John Baer Tomato and Jersey Breeze Tomato.

Both tomatoes are certified organic and are excellent slicing and canning tomatoes. Both are known to be tasty and juicy. Like all tomatoes, they like the heat, so you should start seeds indoors late February or early March then transplant outdoors in May. Tomatoes also need support, so start thinking about cages, ladders or stakes you can use or purchase.

Seed Showcase

We will be hosting our Annual Seed Exchange and Showcase. This year we will be welcoming special guests from Xerces Society, ReWild Long Island and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County. These organizations offer programs throughout the year at our library and will be here at the Seed Exchange to answer any questions you have and provide helpful gardening information. Horticulturist Carolyn Kunz -Zambraski will also present and led our Seed Exchange. You are welcome to bring any seeds you've saved throughout the year or just join us to learn more about seed saving and gardening.

Thursday March 21st at 6:30pm - Centereach



HOUSEPLANT OF THE SEASON



Zebra Cactus or Pearl Plant



(Haworthia)

Brrr... Winter is here, a little dark and cold, but a good time to add a bit of light and elegance to your home. The Zebra Cactus is a family of small, slow-growing succulent plants that resemble mini aloe plants with rosettes of fleshy green leaves generously covered with white pearly warts or bands. A good option for winter, with low-maintenance and a preference for cooler temperatures.



Care:

Light: Prefers bright, indirect light, preferably near an east or a west facing window.

Water: Just enough to keep the leaves plump in the fall and winter. Increase watering in the warmer months, whenever the top inch of soil has dried out, but ensure the soil is never waterlogged.

Soil: Use sandy or gravelly soil with excellent drainage.

Temperature: Tolerates cooler temperatures in the winter, as low as 50 degrees, but prefers warmer temperatures in the summer, over 70 degrees.

Fertilizer: Apply liquid fertilizer monthly in the spring and summer.

Toxicity: Safe for pets

New Seeds for 2024



**GOLDEN
SWEET PEA**



**JOHN BAER
TOMATO**



**EARLY
FORTUNE
CUCUMBER**



**NEW ENGLAND
PIE PUMPKIN**



**ITHACA
LETTUCE**



**PROVIDER
BUSH
GREEN BEANS**



**JERSEY BREEZE
TOMATO**



**NATIONAL
PICKLING
CUCUMBER**



**TEDDY BEAR
SUNFLOWER**



**NORTHEAST
NATIVE
WILDFLOWER**



**JOE PYE
WEED
(SPOTTED)**



**SPARKY
FRENCH MIX
MARIGOLD**






































Planting Calendar

IT'S THE PERFECT TIME TO START PLANNING YOUR VEGETABLE GARDEN. WE'VE USED THE FARMER'S ALMANAC PLANTING GUIDE TO DETERMINE THE BEST TIME TO START SEEDS INDOORS, WHEN TO TRANSPLANT, AND WHEN YOU CAN START PLANTS OUTDOORS. ALL CROPS LISTED BELOW ARE ALSO AVAILABLE IN THE THE SEED LIBRARY.

Crop	Based on Frost Dates			
	Based on Moon Dates			
	Start Seeds Indoors	Plant Seedlings or Transplants	Start Seeds Outdoors	Last Date to Plant
Arugula	Feb 19-Mar 4 Feb 19-24	Mar 26-Apr 9 Apr 8-9	Mar 19-26 Mar 19-25	Sep 30
Beets	N/A	Apr 2-16 Apr 2-7	Mar 19-26 Mar 26	Apr 30
Bell Peppers	Feb 5-19 Feb 9-19	Apr 30-May 7 May 7	N/A	Aug 5
Broccoli	Feb 19-Mar 4 Feb 19-24	Apr 2-16 Apr 8-16	Mar 19-26 Mar 19-25	Aug 26
Brussels Sprouts	Mar 4-19	Apr 2-16 Apr 8-16	Mar 19-26 Mar 19-25	Jul 22
Carrots	N/A	N/A	Mar 19-Apr 2 Mar 26-Apr 2	Aug 19
Cauliflower	Mar 4-19	Apr 9-23 Apr 9-23	N/A	Aug 19
Cucumbers	Mar 26-Apr 2	Apr 23-May 7 Apr 23	Apr 30-May 7 May 7	Aug 19
Eggplants	Feb 19-Mar 4 Feb 19-24	Apr 30-May 7 May 7	N/A	Aug 19

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Green Beans	N/A	N/A	 Apr 23-May 14  Apr 23, May 8-14	Aug 19
Jalapeño Peppers	 Feb 5-19  Feb 9-19	 Apr 30-May 7  May 7	N/A	
Kale	 Feb 19-Mar 4  Feb 19-24	 Apr 2-16  Apr 8-16	 Mar 19-26  Mar 19-25	Apr 30
Lettuce	 Mar 4-19	 Mar 26-Apr 2	 Mar 19-26  Mar 19-25	Apr 30
Peas	N/A	N/A	 Mar 19-26  Mar 19-25	Apr 30
Pumpkins	 Mar 26-Apr 9  Apr 8-9	 Apr 30-May 7  May 7	 Apr 30-May 7  May 7	Jul 15
Spinach	 Mar 4-19	 Mar 26-Apr 2	 Mar 19-26  Mar 19-25	Apr 30
Tomatoes	 Feb 19-Mar 4  Feb 19-24	 Apr 30-May 7  May 7	N/A	Jul 29
Zucchini and Summer Squash	 Mar 26-Apr 2	 Apr 23-May 7  Apr 23	 Apr 30-May 7  May 7	Aug 26

Check out these great reads!

THE LIFELONG GARDENER BY TONI GATTONE

This book celebrates gardening at any age while also being an information-rich resource about resilience, not giving up, and how an adaptive approach to gardening can remove barriers, and create new opportunities for senior and boomer gardeners. We recommend this book for all gardeners to help you simplify and safely enjoy your garden.

CALL NUMBER- 635.0846 GATTONE



TONI GATTONE The Lifelong Gardener GARDEN WITH EASE & JOY AT ANY AGE



SEED SWAP BY JOSIE JEFFERY

What is Seedswapping? Check out this picturesque book and learn the what, who, and whys of seed swapping and seed saving. Discover how to harvest seeds from your own garden, and grow plants from your own seed stash. With a directory of plants and easy-to-follow instructions, this is the perfect book for first-time seedswappers.

CALL NUMBER: 631.521 JEFFERY

