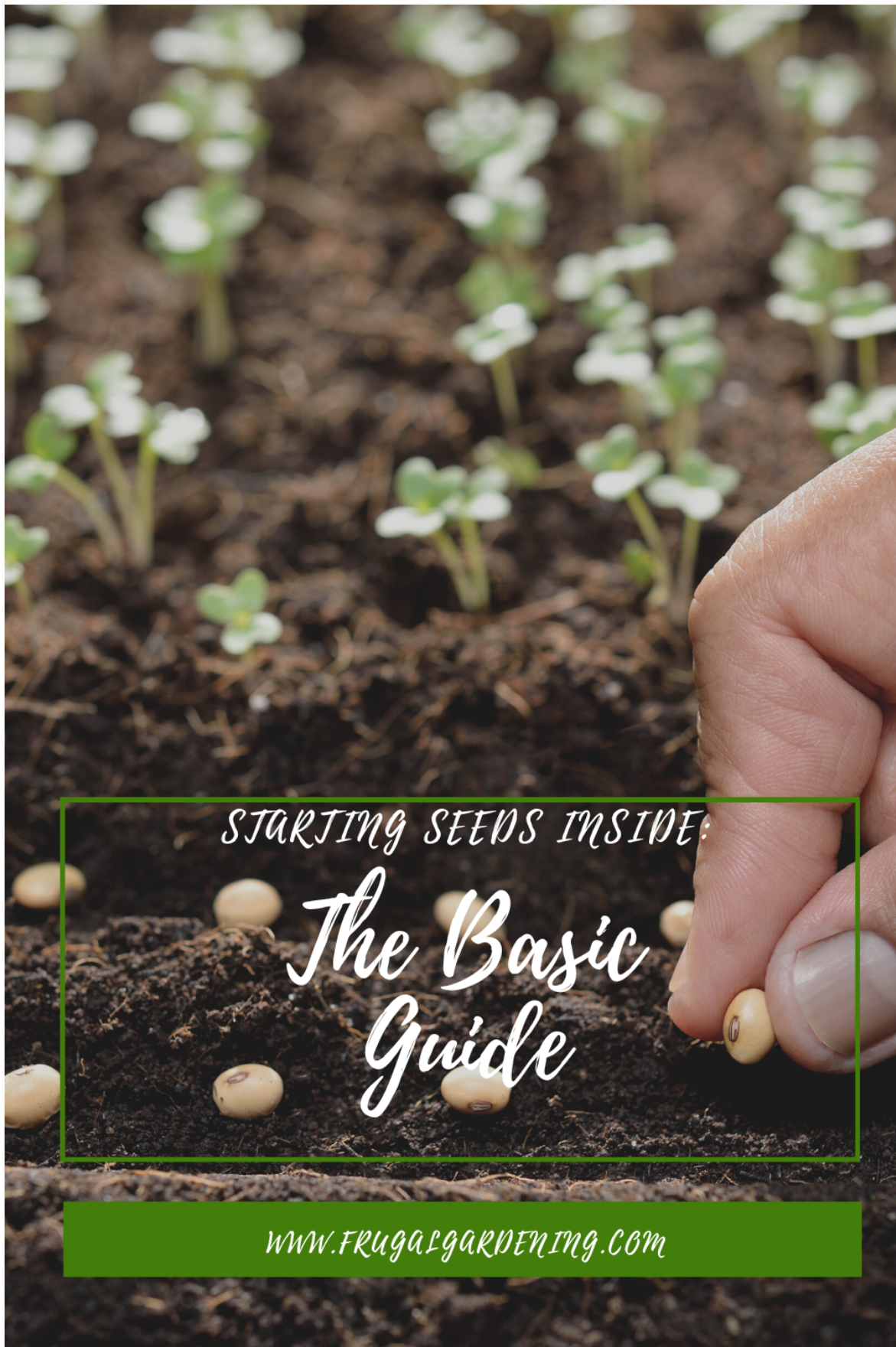


Starting Seeds Inside: The Basic Guide



STARTING SEEDS INSIDE:

The Basic Guide

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This is the time of year my family would begin starting seeds inside. The first week of February was about dreaming of summer by fixing the soil in seedling trays. The next several

weeks brought tiny little plants that always fascinated me.

This post will teach you the basics of seed starting and give you a list of great veggies to germinate before planting.

Germinating Seeds

Germination is the process by which a seed leaves dormancy and begins to grow. Many people like to eat these young plants as sprouts or microgreens.

When Should You Start Your Seeds?

This will depend on 2 factors: where you live and what you are starting. The general rule is to start most veggies 8 weeks before your area's last frost date, but some have unique requirements.

How to Start Your Seeds

You only need a few things: a container, a medium, seeds, and water. Then, follow the directions on the back of the seed packet for individualized instructions on the best methods for starting those seeds.

The Container

The container can be a special seed starting, pot, or even a

[milk jug](#). The criteria you need to meet is the container needs to be easily covered. In addition, the humidity must be high at the beginning of the germination process, but you must remove the cover as the seedlings grow.

The Medium

Your medium can be peat moss mix, simple soil, or a paper towel. The most crucial part is that it keeps an even dampness. So you want it to hold a decent amount of water without staying wet to prevent mold.

The Seeds

Seeds that are from the previous year will have the best germination rates. Older seeds may germinate, but it could take longer, and fewer seeds will start to grow.

Water

Once you secure the seeds in the medium, you must use enough water to keep the soil damp but not wet. Overwatering can cause mold to grow.

Finishing Your Seeds

Cover your container with transparent plastic to keep the moisture and heat in to encourage the best conditions for germination. As your seedlings grow, you will need to remove the cover altogether. A few weeks before transplanting, you will need to set the seedlings outside for progressively longer times. This "hardening off" process lets the plant get used to the sun without sunburn.

Best Veggies to Start Inside

The following are just a few of the best veggies to start inside.

Tomatoes and Peppers

They easily germinate and take about 6-8 weeks to be ready to transplant outside. These are super popular among gardeners, so you can find many varieties. Just sow in seed starting mix, water lightly, and place in a sunny spot.

Cucumbers and Melons

Another group of easily germinated plants, these don't have as many varieties as tomatoes and peppers, but you will have no problem finding tasty ones that fit your needs. These also take 6-8 weeks to be ready for transplanting. Sow like tomatoes and peppers.

Lettuces

Sow in peat most a few weeks before the last frost date in your area. Then, place the container in a sunny window and transplant it as soon as the ground can be worked.

Conclusion

Starting your own seeds can save you money versus buying transplants. So what seeds do you start inside?

Read More:

[10 Techniques to Increase Germination Rate](#)

[10 Reasons Your Plants Don't Germinate](#)

[Do I Really Need to Start Seeds Indoors](#)