



Generally speaking, .edu and .gov sites are more authoritative than other sites. There are many exceptions!

UConn Home and Garden Education Center

<http://www.ladybug.uconn.edu>

An authoritative compendium for the home gardener in Connecticut

- Monthly gardening tips
- How to get a soil test
- Frost dates and planting calendars for your area
- A go-to site for help. Here is the [seed starting](#) page

Other seed starting sites

<https://www.homegardenseedassociation.com/essentials-for-indoor-seed-starting>

Takes you through the process of starting and caring for seeds using pots and seed mix, with good photos.

<https://homesteadandchill.com/seed-starting-101/>

Another site with good photos of the seed-starting process using pots and seed mix.

Planting guides

Hart's vegetable planting guide

<https://hartseed.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/harts-guide-vegetable-planting-chart.pdf>

<https://www.homegardenseedassociation.com/gardening-articles>

Written for beginning gardeners, this resource has how-to's for gardening basics, vegetable gardening, pollinators, seed basics, and more, and also includes print, online, and app resources. It is a feature of the home garden seed association, of which Hart's seed is a member.

<https://www.windowbox.com/companion-planting-chart/>

Highlights plants that are compatible with other plants in the garden, and those that should not be planted together. **Note: Site was unavailable on 4-22-2022.**

<https://gardenerspath.com/how-to/beginners/backs-seed-packets-display-valuable-information-gardener/>

Goes through the elements on a seed packet and how to use the information that is on the packet as a resource for successful propagation.

Saving seed

<https://modernfarmer.com/2018/07/seed-saving-101-10-things-to-know-if-you-want-to-start-saving-seeds/>

Another one

<https://www.seedsavers.org>

A site for heirloom seed connoisseurs, with sections on purchasing seed, exchanging seed you have saved, resources on gardening and seed saving.

<https://gardenculturemagazine.com/?s=seed+saving>

Their four-part series on seed-saving (mainly vegetable crops) is comprehensive and full of helpful photos. The above link will take you to the magazines other articles on seed saving as well.

Local Resources

Links & Formulas for Spring Get Started Growing from Seed
Betsy Goldberg 1-31-2021, updated 10-20-2023
Hamden Library Seed Library

UConn Master Gardeners

<https://mastergardener.uconn.edu>



Master Gardeners are enthusiastic, willing to learn and share their knowledge and training with others. What sets them apart from other home gardeners is their special horticultural training. In exchange for this training, Master Gardeners commit time as volunteers working through their local UConn Extension Center and the Bartlett Arboretum in Stamford to provide horticultural-related information to the community.

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station - for soil testing

<https://portal.ct.gov/CAES/ABOUT-CAES/Programs-And-Services/Programs-and-Services>

A few formulas to get you started gardening in Hamden

Hardiness Zone, Last/First Frost

USDA Plant Hardiness Zone = 6B

Last Frost Date (Spring) = April 11-May 1

First Frost Date (Fall) = Oct 20-Nov 1

(Depends on how it's calculated, and how much of a risk factor is built in)

How many days fall between these two dates? Say 206

(These are the only things you need to know to calculate when to start seeds and plant them out in the garden.) Of course, nature does not follow these protocols, so YRVM!

Raised Bed Soil Recipe (from almanac.com)

For a 4x8-foot raised bed:

- 4 bags (2 cubic feet each) topsoil (**Note:** Avoid using topsoil from your yard, as it may contain weeds and pests.)
- 2 pails (3 cubic feet each) coconut coir (to improve drainage)
- 2 bags (2–3 cubic feet each) compost or composted cow manure
- 2-inch layer of shredded leaves or grass clippings (grass clippings should be herbicide- and fertilizer-free)

N-P-K

What do those numbers mean on the fertilizer labels?

N is for **Nitrogen**. Develops healthy stems and leaves. Lettuce, anyone? Apply only when leaves are actively growing.

P is for **Phosphorous**. Develops healthy flowers and fruit (and roots). Tomatoes, anyone? Apply mid-season when your plant wants to send out its bounty.

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K is for **Potassium**. Boosts roots for beets, carrots, and other underground crops. Turnips, anyone? Apply any time for robust plant health.

Save \$\$ by only applying what you need when you need it!