

# North Country Gardening



NORTH COUNTRY GARDENING

March 2009

Dear Friends,

It is amazing how much we depend on technology these days. Recently, there was a security breach on the Cornell web server. As a result, our county's webpage has been inaccessible for several weeks. I have not been able to post the square foot gardening applications, or February's newsletter. The webpage is finally back up, but I cannot make updates to the materials found on the web. Hopefully, everything will be up and running shortly!

Because of the internet issues, I have also extended the deadline for square foot garden applications. Originally, I stated

that all applications needed to be postmarked February 28. This deadline has been extended to March 20. If you would like an application, simply call the office at 561-7450 to request one.

I'm still in the planning phases, but promise next month your newsletter will be filled with many exciting workshops and events. Some topics we'll explore this spring include landscaping with native plants, using trees and shrubs in your landscaping, how to build raised beds, eco-friendly lawn care, garden photography, and much more!

Spring is coming. This past weekend, we got the kids out to Point Au Roche for a walk. The snow was

melting, forming puddles and miniature rivers. Henry and Elsa came home very wet, happy, and tired.

I know that you may be eager to get out there as the snow melts and check out the state of the gardens, but please continue to be patient. The ground will be very wet. Wet soil is easily damaged. (It loses its structure and compacts more easily). As the weather continues to warm, the soil will dry out!

Until next time—keep gardening,

*Anne Lenox Barlow*  
Horticulture Educator

e-mail: [alb326@cornell.edu](mailto:alb326@cornell.edu)

**Save the Date**  
Our 7th Annual Spring Garden Day will be April 25!

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## March Gardening Tips

- Amy Ivy, Executive Director Clinton County

### Starting Seeds Indoors

Starting seeds indoors for your vegetable or flower garden takes just a minimal amount of equipment and is a lot of fun. If you're a gardener who tends to get antsy in March, wondering if spring will ever arrive, I

encourage you to try starting some seeds indoors. It's like having a miniature garden indoors, with a whole lot less weeding and work.

We have an excellent fact sheet at our office with all

the details about starting seeds indoors, just call our for a free copy or visit our local Web site at <http://ecgarden-ing.cce.cornell.edu> and click on 'fact sheets.' We also have a fact sheet on how

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# North Country Gardening

## March Gardening Tips (cont'd)



Now through mid-July is the time to prune! Contact the office with any specific pruning questions you may have.

“SEEDLINGS JUST DON'T GET ENOUGH LIGHT ON A SUNNY WINDOWSILL; THE DAYS ARE TOO SHORT IN LATE WINTER TO PRODUCE STOCKY PLANTS.”



If a section of your property is prone to poor drainage, there are many plants adapted to wet conditions you can plant in those areas.

to build a simple stand out of PVC pipe to hold your growlights.

### Lights

To grow good quality seedlings you really must invest in some lights, but they don't have to be fancy. A simple four foot fluorescent shop light fixture or two, each fitted with one cool white and one warm white bulb, is all you need.

Many people have been discouraged with growing seedlings indoors because the plants become weak, floppy and spindly (we call this 'leggy'). This is almost always due to the plants not getting enough light. Seedlings just don't get enough light on a sunny windowsill; the days are too short in late winter and the angle of the sun just doesn't provide enough intensity to produce stocky plants.

Hang your light fixture from chains so you can adjust its height as the plants grow. You need to keep the fixture just 4 to 6 inches directly above the leaves. Use a timer so the lights will stay on for 14-16 hours per day.

### Timing

After the lights, the next most common mistake made is to start the seeds too early. You'll be amazed how quickly they grow once they get started.

When in doubt, start your seeds later than you think. It's always better to transplant a smaller seedling than an overgrown one. Our seed starting fact sheet includes information on timing for specific plants.

### **Snow Melt and Wet Ground**

As the temperatures finally begin to rise all that snow is going to melt and temporarily turn our fields into ponds, fill roadside ditches with snow melt and put our basement sump pumps to the test. Most plants can tolerate short term flooding but this is a good time to think about any sections of your yard that experience long periods of high water each year.

I can't put a definite number on how long is a long period but look around and notice those sections that stay wet after most other sections have dried. If the spring thaw is the only time of year these sections are soaked you probably don't need to be too concerned. But if these sections are prone to being wet in other times of the year they may have an underground source of water or lie in a perennially low and poorly drained area.

It's important to know which sections of your yard are prone to poor drainage so you can choose plants adapted to those

conditions. Almost no plant can stand flooded soil for long. When soil is saturated all the air spaces fill up with water and the roots eventually suffocate from insufficient oxygen; they drown. If there is anything you can do to correct drainage problems in your yard, do that before investing in new plants.

### **When to Prune**

One question that is asked the most is, when is the best time to prune? From the plant's perspective, the best time to prune is when it is metabolically active so it can quickly respond to the pruning cuts. This is generally from mid March through mid July. Exceptions are when the plant is in bloom and the week when it's first pushing out its new growth for the season. Avoid doing much pruning during these times.

The next consideration is whether to prune before the plant leafs out or after, and this depends on what you want to accomplish. If you prune spring blooming plants before they leaf out, you'll be removing flower buds as well and diminishing this year's show. The plant doesn't mind but you might.

In general, prune before the plant leafs out if you want to stimulate new growth or make big changes to the

## March Gardening Tips (cont'd)

plant's growth habit. Pruning before the leaves emerge invigorates plants. This is also a nice time to prune shrubs because you can see the branches more easily without leaves in the way.

Pruning after the leaves emerge maintains the size of the plant instead of invigorating it. This is a good time to prune shrubs and hedges that have gotten as tall as you'd like. This is also a good time to prune shrubs such as forsythia and spirea that produce lots and lots of branches from the ground. You can thin out the extra branches now without inducing a lot of new growth in response.

## Wanted

Cornell Cooperative Extension is looking for a few good forest owner volunteers to meet and work with neighbors through its Master Forest Owner Program. The goal of the program is to provide private forest owners with the information and encouragement necessary to manage their forests to enhance ownership satisfaction. MFOs do not perform management activities nor give professional advice. Rather they meet with neighboring forest owners to listen to their concerns and questions and offer advice as to sources of assistance. The training is May 13-17 at the SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry Adirondack Ecological Center in Newcomb. Cost is \$50. For more information and an application contact CCE Warren County at 518-623-3291 or warren@cornell.edu. The application is due by April 24 and registration is limited to 25 individuals. To learn more about the MFO program visit [www.cornellmfo.info](http://www.cornellmfo.info).

E-mail your questions to Grant the Garden Gnome at [alb326@cornell.edu](mailto:alb326@cornell.edu) to have your gardening questions answered by an expert!

# Ask Grant!



Dear Grant,

I love the idea of having fresh cut flowers in the house, but hate cutting the flowers out of my garden. I feel that I am taking the beauty out of my garden when I cut a bouquet.

Sincerely,

Wishing for Bountiful Bouquets

Dear Wishing,

The simplest solution to your dilemma is planting a cutting garden. Choose a sunny, well drained area for your new garden and amend the soil with compost, just as you would any new garden. Because a cutting garden is not intended for display, think in terms of easy maintenance when planning your space. Generally, cutting gardens are set up like traditional vegetable plots, with widely spaced rows providing plenty of room to move about to plant, thin, fertilize, water, deadhead (remove spent blooms), and harvest.

Group species of plants for efficient use of space and easy harvest. For maximum production, plant annuals in succession, with early season, mid-season, and late season bloomers each grouped together. Plant flowers with similar requirements for sun, water, and drainage together for easier maintenance. Tall plants should be placed where they won't shade out shorter varieties. Here are some flowers you may consider planting in a cutting

To encourage production, and keep plants blooming throughout the summer, pick blossoms regularly. Remove faded blossoms (deadheading) as this prevents them from forming seeds, which slows down flower production. This also is a good time to check for insects, such as aphids, that may infest plants.

When production slows and plants stop flowering, pull them, cultivate the bed, and replant with new seedlings. For example, while pansies provide early summer color, they won't bloom once summer days get too hot. Replace them then with marigolds or zinnias.

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# North Country Gardening

## Community Supported Agriculture - Alessandra Wingerter, St. Lawrence University



Some CSA farmers ask that their members come to the farm and work in exchange for their share of produce.

“OFTEN, BY THE TIME FOOD REACHES OUR MOUTHS IT HAS ALREADY BEEN WASHED, PROCESSED, PACKAGED AND TRAVELED THOUSANDS OF MILES.”



Besides produce, farm fresh eggs and even chicken can be a component of the food a CSA member receives.

*Editor’s note: Alessandra was a student intern for Adirondack Harvest for 3 weeks during December 2008, where she was able to get become a bit more “in touch” with agriculture. As part of her internship, Alessandra compiled a list of area CSA farms. Contact your Extension Office or visit [www.adirondackharvest.com](http://www.adirondackharvest.com) to find CSA farms in your area.*

As I sat down to milk my first cow at Essex Farm, I thought to myself “How is it that my family consumes a gallon of milk a day, and yet, this is the first time I’m milking a cow?” Maybe it’s my suburban childhood that has let this disconnect continue for so long. Or maybe I had never really been that interested before. But perhaps the overwhelming reason for my separation between me and my food is that our food system is broken. Walk into any grocery store and one sees a vast variety of shapes and colors of produce, just waiting to be made into a meal. However, we know very little about these products and where they came from. A sticker informs us that the carrots are from California; the apple has come from Washington State. Our food has traveled thousands of miles to get to our mouths. And we can’t ask

the farmer how he or she has grown them. We don’t know if they’ve had a successful or disappointing growing season. We can’t visit the farm where our produce is being grown, breathe the fresh air, nor run our fingers through the very soil it is grown in. There is an emotional and social disconnect between the consumer and our food.

However, CSA creates the link between farmers and consumers in a very intimate way. CSA stands for Community Supported Agriculture. The concept, although still foreign to many, has its roots in Japan’s *teikei* farming which is often translated to mean “food with the farmers face on it.” It also has origins in Switzerland, of which travels there inspired Jan Vandertuin, together with Robyn Van En, to create America’s first CSA in 1985. Jan and Robyn’s Indian Line Farm, of Massachusetts, as well as Trauger Groh’s Temple-Wilton Community Farm in New Hampshire became the pioneer CSA farms of America. The name “Community Supported Agriculture” was agonized over by Van En and her cabal, yet it was decided upon because it conveyed the necessary message of the commitment between farmers and their members in a succinct way. Initially,

Van En intended “Community Supported Agriculture” to transpose to “Agriculture Supported Communities” (“CSA to ASC”). However, that idea is difficult to matriculate into everyday language and the “ASC” part of the nomenclature has faded, yet the concept is held strong still by some farmers.

CSA was born out of that disconnect between the farmer and the consumer. Often, by the time food reaches our mouths it has already been washed, processed, packaged and traveled thousands of miles. On average, our food travels 1,500 miles to get to our plates. In addition, the money that we pay for that food rarely makes it way back to the farmer; instead, it is invested in the aforementioned resources. By creating a community of people who are willing to pay for their food at the beginning of the growing season in return for a weekly share of vegetables, CSA eliminates the separation we have with our food.

While many CSA farms also sell their products to other venues, such as farmers markets, the desire of family farms still remains and is protected by CSA. Members understand that by paying at the beginning of the growing season, they are mitigating the financial

## Community Supported Ag (cont'd)

burdens a farmer may face with the start up costs of seed, equipment and other costs.

Membership participation differs from farm to farm. On one end, some CSAs require members to work on the farm as part of their payment. "Subscription" CSAs lay on the other end of the spectrum; the farm crew does most of the work and members receive a weekly box of vegetables. These also tend to run for a few months rather than the whole year. However, most CSAs fall somewhere in between these two models and provide weekly newsletters, recipe swaps and potlucks throughout the season.

One may find any range of CSA models in the Adirondacks and North Country. There are many subscription CSAs, both large and small, for those who wish to eat locally but may not have the time or desire to visit the farm. Furthermore, if one is new to the idea of CSAs, there are many who just run in the summer months and that offer individual shares if one is hesitant to commit. On the other hand, there are CSAs that offer year round shares often either requiring time spent on the farm or some type of educational component revolving around the food members receive. Another

model of CSA that we may see more of as CSA popularity grows are multifarm CSAs, which combines produce from several farms into one CSA.

Gauging the success of a CSA can be difficult. Some look at the number of members of a CSA and how many months food is provided; others examine the overall satisfaction level of members. These two variables play off each other. For instance, a large CSA can be seen as very successful because it is able to produce great amounts of local food for a number of people. However, as a CSA grows in members, it becomes harder to educate them about the food they are receiving. Hard earned food may go to waste in the colder months, as people are unaware of preservation techniques.

Unlike some small farms, most CSAs in the Adirondacks and North Country are currently thriving. Marketing the farm is hardly an issue, even for a brand new CSA. Word-of-mouth is generally the most utilized tool; however, posters in local business windows and e-mails can't hurt. Organizations like Adirondack Harvest and Garden Share are also of assistance because they make it easy for residents to find nearby CSAs. Most

CSAs of the Adirondacks and North Country have waiting lists and members commonly return year after year.

It is an exciting time for CSAs; in the past five years or so there has been a renewed interest in local food. Though many people are still unaware of the disconnect between their food, CSA is slowly bridging that gap. Whether that means eating locally or volunteering on a nearby farm, any small part will help us realize what we've been missing.



CSA farmers strive to offer a variety of produce each week, so that the CSA members are not inundated with one or two types of produce.

**"UNLIKE SOME SMALL FARMS, MOST CSAS IN THE ADIRONDACKS AND NORTH COUNTRY ARE CURRENTLY THRIVING."**



Fresh fruits such as raspberries are often a component of a CSA share.

# North Country Gardening

## Community Gardening Opportunities



As growing your own food becomes more common, look for the number of community gardens to increase.

“SIMPLY PUT, A COMMUNITY GARDEN IS A PIECE OF LAND GARDENED BY A GROUP OF PEOPLE.”



Community gardens are a great way to bring community members together.

It shouldn't surprise you, that I love gardening. All my life I have gardened. The gardens I remember have always been connected with someone's home – my parents, my grandparents, my aunt and uncle, houses I have rented, and at my home. I have been fortunate enough to always have some space to dedicate to plants. Unfortunately, not everyone who wishes to garden has enough space or the proper site to grow their own flowers and vegetables.

Fortunately, there is an increasing interest in a gardening style that allows anyone to garden, no matter how little or even how much property they own. What is this style of gardening? It's community gardening. Simply put, a community garden is a piece of land gardened by a group of people. These gardens are as diverse as the imagination. While food production is central to many community and allotment gardens, not all have vegetables as a main focus. Restoration of natural areas and native plant gardens are also popular, as are art gardens. Many gardens have several different planting elements, and combine plots with such projects as small orchards, herbs and butterfly gardens. Individual plots can

become virtual backyards, each highly diverse, creating a quilt of flowers, vegetables and folk art.

The structure of a community garden can be as diverse as the plants grown in the garden. Some gardens are tended to as a whole by a dedicated group of community members. If food is grown in a garden managed in this style, the food is typically divided among the gardeners, given to local food shelves, or sold at a local market.

Other gardens are divided into clear plots that are assigned to individuals. These types of gardens are known as allotment gardens. Typically any fruit, vegetables, herbs, or flowers grown in allotment style gardens belong to the individual tending that allotment, though they are often encouraged to donate some of that food back to the community.

Besides increasing the food security of a community, these gardens help foster a sense of community, educate people of all ages about the natural environment, and studies have shown that they even decrease crime and vandalism. Another common theme that all successful community gardens share is structure. Some are organized in a top-down fashion by local govern-

ment. Others are grassroots organizations run by not-for-profit organizations.

The care of a community garden involves tasks that most home gardeners undertake – mulching paths, mowing, tending to the plants, watering, and tending to the appearance of the garden. Other tasks include recruiting new members, reminding members to tend their plots, fundraising, and bolstering continued support. More information on what goes into the creation and upkeep of a community garden can be found at the American Community Gardening Association's webpage [www.communitygarden.org](http://www.communitygarden.org).

And, I've saved the best news about community gardening for last. There is an increasing awareness of the importance of community gardening and interest in creating community gardens. In Clinton County, a community garden is being planned in Plattsburgh. In Essex County, community gardens are either underway or being planned in Westport, Keene, Lake Placid, and Saranac Lake. For more information on how you can get involved in these community gardens, visit <http://ecgarden-ing.cce.cornell.edu>.

## Ask Grant (cont'd)

Your choice of what to plant is almost limitless. Here are some suggestions:

**ANNUALS:** ageratum, Bells of Ireland, calendula, campanula, celosia (cockscomb), cleome, cosmos, dianthus, lisianthus, geranium, gypsophila (baby's breath), helichrysum (strawflower), nicotiana, pansy, petunia, phlox, salpigloss, scabiosa, snapdragon, statice, sunflower, sweet pea, zinnia.

**PERENNIALS:** achillea (yarrow), aster, campanula, carnation, coreopsis, delphinium, dianthus, digitalis (foxglove), echinacea (purple coneflower), heuchera (coral bells), lupine, phlox, Icelandic poppy, rudbeckia (black-eyed susan), sage, shasta daisy, veronica.

**FOLIAGE PLANTS:** artemisia (silver-leafed varieties), coleus, dusty miller, hostas, lamb's ears, laven-

der.

Thanks for Asking,  
*Grant*



When planning a cutting garden, don't forget to plant some spring bulbs!

## Upcoming Events & Workshops

### Turtle Sprouts, March 28

Do your children love crafts? Or, are you looking for a fun way to introduce your children to gardening? Then come learn how to make and care for turtle sprouts on March 28 from 9:30am—11:00am with Anne Lenox Barlow. This fun hands-on class is \$10 for the first child and \$5 each additional child. Cost include all materials. All children must be accompanied by an adult. The workshop is being held at the Cooperative Extension Office in Plattsburgh. To sign-up or for more information call the office at 561-7450. Space is limited, so register today!

### Preventing Garden Problems, March 31

What can you do to discourage some of the more common pest problems in your garden this summer? Come to the Wild Center in Tupper Lake on Saturday March 31 from 1pm-3pm to find out! Emily Selleck and Master Gardener Volunteers will offer tips on reducing your critter, weed and pest problems before they get out of hand, in environmentally sensitive ways. This workshop is free with regular museum admission. For more information call 359-7800 or visit the Wild Center Web site: [www.wildcenter.org](http://www.wildcenter.org)

### Spring Garden Day, April 25

We're still working out the details, but encourage you to save the date! Our 7th annual Spring Garden Day will be held at Clinton Community College this year and promise an educational, hands-on, fun day. This year's theme will focus on growing, storing, and using your own garden-fresh produce. From novice to expert, there will be plenty to learn. Topics may include berry basics, salsa gardening, the exciting world of greens, and much more! Check your April newsletter for more information.

For more information on our upcoming event visit us on the web at <http://counties.cce.cornell.edu/clinton> or call the office at 518-561-7450.

“SPRING

GARDEN DAY

TOPICS MAY

INCLUDE BERRY

BASICS, SALSA

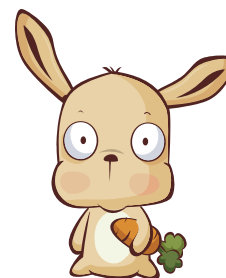
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MUCH MORE!”

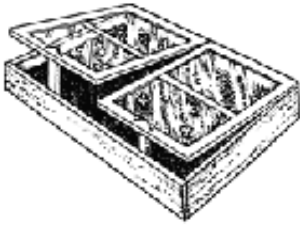


Wildlife problems? Come learn how to prevent garden problems on March 31 at the Wild Center in Tupper Lake.

# North Country Gardening

## Cold Frames

- Emily Selleck, Horticulture Educator Essex Co.



Cold frames can simply be a wooden box with old windows that open for ventilation.

“A COLD FRAME PROVIDES A GREAT ENVIRONMENT FOR GROWING SEEDLINGS BECAUSE IT ALLOWS THEM TO ADAPT NATURALLY TO GARDEN CONDITIONS.”



Seedlings grown indoors need to be acclimated to the harsher conditions found outdoors.

When I was a small child, one of the things I loved best about early spring was my father’s cold frame. It faced south behind the fieldstone wall that separated the house and terrace lawn from the field beyond. It was the perfect spot for the seedlings inside the cold frame to receive lots of sunlight and for me *not* to be exposed to the scrutiny of the household! I would squat down in front of the eight-by-eight-foot wooden structure and admire the sloping window-paned doors. Each door could be opened out, like opening a cupboard, to release warm, humid, earthy air. Droplets of water would bead up on the inside of the glass panes and then fall down into the nascent garden below.

I loved to watch my father watching his seedlings. He would check on them periodically, sometimes propping the doors open in the middle of the day to prevent the build-up of too much heat in the frame, and then closing them in the late afternoon to protect the seedlings from the chilly night air. And then one day he would pronounce the small plants ready to be set out in the big vegetable garden nearby!

I recall being somewhat

saddened by the sudden emptiness of what had been for so long (to a small child) a nursery full of living things. Even after all the plants had been carefully tucked into their new beds, I still visited the cold frame, opening the doors to smell the rich aromas and poke around in the soil for toads and earthworms and other small creatures.

A cold frame provides a great environment for growing seedlings because it allows them to adapt naturally to garden conditions. A cold frame is one of the simplest and most successful low-tech tools for modifying the garden climate. A cold frame is basically a box that sits on the soil - a box with a glass top and no bottom. It can be made as long, as wide, or as tall as the gardener wishes. Cold frames have been used with good results since ancient times when sheets of mica were used instead of glass. Now *that’s* successful!

Cold frames protect plants from the cold by maintaining high humidity within the frame as well as by keeping the plants removed from winds that steal ambient heat and evaporate moisture. And, because it has a cover, a cold frame prevents the sometimes pounding

spring rains from damaging the young plants inside.

Successful cold frame management hinges on two practices: 1. Temperature control; and, 2. Watering. Keep a thermometer in the frame to give you some idea of the temperature. Place the thermometer in a small, white (so it won’t absorb heat), slatted box that sits on the soil on the center of the frame. In this protected enclosure, the thermometer will come closer to measuring ambient air temperature rather than the direct effect of the sun’s rays. On sunny days, venting is an “open-and-shut” job. On rainy days, it’s usually not necessary. On cloudy days, though, be sure to check the thermometer because a lot of the sun’s rays can come through the clouds. A daytime temperature of 70 degrees F is what to aim for. The ideal is to keep the plants growing steadily but not to overheat them. With cold frames, it is always better to err on the cool side and vent the frames excessively rather than keep them too warm.

As the spring advances, you’ll need to pay close attention to watering. The enhanced warmth inside the frames that will occur as the days lengthen and

### Cold Frames (cont'd)

the sun moves higher in the sky will increase evaporation thereby increasing the plants' need for water. And, the plants will be growing vigorously, too. The best time to water is early in the morning. And, the best way to water is trickle irrigation which delivers water to the root zone and keeps water off the young leaves.

Windowsills, for all their convenience, are still iffy places to get most seedlings off to a good start. The brightest window in a house is simply not able to provide enough light for seedlings to grow properly. Outside, when the temperature increases so does the intensity of the sunlight. Most plants grow best under these increasing proportions of light and heat. When plants are grown in a heated house, the balance between increase in temperature and increase in light intensity is upset. If you have seedlings in a sunny window, the combination of heat from the house and solar radiation coming through the window can bring the air temperature around the plants up to about 80 degrees F! Outdoors at this temperature the plants would be in full sunlight. But on the windowsill, they are still only getting the portion of

the sunlight that passes through the glass, considerably less than the amount that there should be proportionate to the heat. Under these conditions, the tops of the plants grow too fast, and the roots - which grow best in cool soil - grow too slowly.

Another advantage of cold frames is that your seedlings will be gradually exposed to the sun, wind, and temperature extremes they will encounter when planted out in the garden. In other words, they will "harden off" as they continue to grow. You can place your seedlings in the cold frame as soon as they are up. When you open the frame on sunny days, the plants will be exposed to unfiltered sunlight thus receiving the natural ratio of temperature to sun as well as fresh air. Every time the breeze shakes the plants, it stimulates the stems to become stronger and thicker. The air circulation also makes the plants lose water more quickly which stimulates the roots to grow. Plants grown in a cold frame that is opened more and more as the season progresses will be properly hardened off thereby eliminating the chore of hauling the plants out of and back into the house.

If your yard is not suitable for a cold frame and if indoors is your only option, you can still make it work, but you'll need to add supplemental light beyond the sunlight the plants will receive through your windows. Fluorescent fixtures provide the most natural light and are cheaper to run than incandescent ones. Special grow-light tubes are available for fluorescent fixtures although you may find that a combination of the less expensive cool white and warm white tubes works just as well. Situate the Gro-Light where the daytime temperatures won't get above 75 degrees. And, if possible, turn the heat down at night to between 50 and 55 degrees. The plants won't grow as fast, but they won't be spindly and they will be stronger and better balanced. A sturdy plant on the small side with a strong root system that is large enough to support the top growth will out-produce a larger, spindly plant whose top outgrew its roots!

If you are interested in more information on cold frames, or for instructions on how to build an inexpensive Gro-Light frame, please visit <http://ecgarden-ing.cce.cornell.edu> our call the office at 561-7450.



After spends time in a cold-frame, these tomatos were ready for a warm summer.

“WINDOWSILLS, FOR ALL THEIR CONVENIENCE, ARE STILL IFFY PLACES TO GET MOST SEEDLINGS OFF TO A GOOD START. “



Once the seedling is large enough and the temperature warm enough, the plant can be transplanted into the garden.

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