



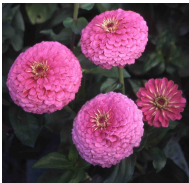
What are the top reasons gardeners start plants from seed?

- *It's fun to participate in the whole process, from start to finish!*
- *Some plants, like carrots and beets, demand it. Others, such as sunflowers and greens, grow better that way.*
- *New and exciting varieties, as well as some favorite old heirlooms are not available any other way.*

Spotlight on Interesting New (and Heirloom) varieties from HGSA Members (... and yes, they're all easy from seed!)



From Americanmeadows.com: 'Moonshine' Sunflower illuminates the summer garden with large, pale yellow blooms and black centers. Growing to be about 5-6' feet, this variety is perfect for the back of the garden or planted alongside a fence for a dramatic look. Pollinators love this sunflower and it makes for a fantastic cut summer flower – we recommend trying a simple look by placing a single stem in a mason jar.



From Americanmeadows.com: 'Illumination' Zinnia, a unique variety for any Zinnia lover, not only adds elegant pink blooms to the garden or meadow, but also makes for fabulous summer bouquets. Large, double blooms create a parade of butterflies and hummingbirds to and from the garden all season. This annual beauty requires little watering once seedlings are a few inches high.



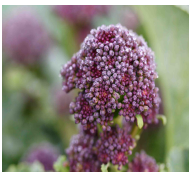
From bbbseed.com: This Watercress (*Nasturtium officinale*) is one of the easiest types for first time growers. Delightfully crisp and peppery the leaves can be snipped off for microgreens or allowed to grow larger for use in salads and garnishes. Place potted watercress plants in a saucer; the roots need to be constantly moist.



From bbbseed.com: Maltese Cross (*Lychnis chalcedonica*) is a favorite of butterflies and hummingbirds. A great choice for the cottage garden, it features brilliant scarlet-orange flower clusters on 2-4 ft. stems of bright green foliage. Maltese Cross is reliable and hardy, and an excellent cutting flower.



From Botanicalinterests.com: 'Night and Day' Snapdragon is a robust, long-blooming cousin of the Black Prince snapdragon. Flowers have a spicy scent and are absolutely gorgeous as cut flowers. In the garden they make an attractive garden accent, or border along a walkway. When the weather cools in fall, the dark red petals turn nearly black, and the foliage turns burgundy.



From Botanicalinterests.com: Summer Purple Sprouting Broccoli produces shoots (rather than one head) and is easy to grow. Unlike most other sprouting varieties, Summer Purple does not need a cold period to start production, and it continues to produce throughout the heat of summer. Fresh spears can be steamed or stir-fried, and "magically" turn green when heated!



From Burpee.com: 'Jaws' Hybrid corn is a summer blockbuster you can really sink your teeth into. Your eyes won't believe your ears! The stunning, larger than life 12" long, 7" round ears of sweet, golden-yellow corn have deep-set kernels up to 100% larger than normal. Each delicious ear will serve two corn lovers, and the six-foot stalks yield two great big ears.



From Burpee.com: 'Meatball' Hybrid is the mightiest, meatiest eggplant ever. Imagine fresh, vine-ripened meat: that's 'Meatball'. The dense, flavorful flesh captures the flavor and texture of meat as no other eggplant—or any vegetable—can. Roly-poly, jewel-toned, moist, and super-flavorful, large 5" fruits are virtuosos of versatility, as entrees, appetizers, or side dishes.



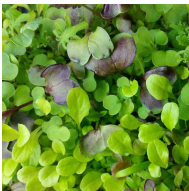
From Harrisseed.com: 'Latte' F1 Sweet Corn is as tasty as it is early. In 68 days you will harvest some of the earliest corn from the garden and each ear has exceptional sweetness and texture. Yellow and white kernels fill well to the tip of the 7.5 to 8" ears, and the plant will fight off common rust and wilt diseases. This synergistic bicolor will be a big crowd pleaser at picnics!



From Harrisseed.com: 'Helios Flame' F1 Sunflower is a perfect choice for your cut flower vase. A pollen-free variety, it has delightful yellow petals with a classy bronze ring in the center...eye candy at its best. Direct seeded outdoors, flowers are ready for cutting in 45 to 50 days. Strong stems and long-lasting blooms make this a great choice for the flower garden as well.



From Hartseed.com: "Bee My Friend" and "Please Don't Flutter By" seed mixes were developed with recommendations from Cooperative Extension System, and in partnership with the [Million Pollinator Garden Challenge](http://MillionPollinatorGardenChallenge.com). Check the website and register your pollinator garden, no matter how small, and help meet the million garden challenge.



From Hartseed.com: "Veggie Confetti" comes in 3 different blends: Sweet & Savory Mix, Fiery Radish Fusion, and Sweet Beet Greens. Each blend is a combination of interesting flavors that can be cut for micro-greens, allowed to re-grow, and then cut again. The crew at Hart's grew dozens of different greens and tested them for taste, using only the best in these mixes.



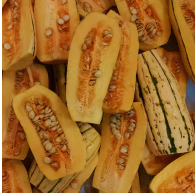
From Highmowingseeds.com: 'Red Ursa' Kale features deeply lobed, frilly tender leaves with broad pink and purple stems. Colors intensify in cold weather and vary from emerald green with light pink stems to dark blue-green leaves with magenta stems. Leaves have a tender texture similar to Red Russian, with cold-hardiness comparable to Siberian.



From Highmowingseeds.com: 'AmaRosa' is a high-yielding fingerling potato with smooth wine-colored skin and sweet, creamy red flesh that resists fading during cooking. The intensely dark red flesh is rich in antioxidants, and 'AmaRosa' has superb culinary quality—delicious fried, baked, boiled, steamed or as mouthwatering pink chips. Scab resistant.



From Highmowingseeds.com: 'Golden Acre' Cabbage produces super early, adorable 3-4lb green heads on compact plants; perfect for smaller households! Heads are round and solid, with delicate but crunchy texture and sweet, spicy flavor with buttery undertones when cooked. This variety has a short harvest window, and is suitable for dense plantings.



From Seedlibrary.org: 'Cornell's Bush Delicata' is a winter squash fit for small spaces! This compact variety is a product of Cornell University's breeding program, and has all the perks of a great delicata: the first winter squash to ripen; sweet, firm flesh; and great flavor. Plus it is resistant to powdery mildew, and can be grown in a large container. Expect 2-5 fruits per plant.



From Seedlibrary.org: 'Pippin's Golden Honey' Pepper is a highly decorative, sweet pepper with a past. It dazzles with purple flowers and pendant fruit on 24-inch plants. The 3- to 3 1/2-inch pods ripen from black (with green interiors) to honey-mustard, and then to golden orange, and are ideal for stuffing or pickling. A potted plant makes a great edible decoration.



From Neseed.com: 'Orangita' F1 Hybrid is an excellent producer of 1- to 1 1/2-lb mini orange pumpkins that feature deep ribbing. Flesh and sugars are similar to an acorn type squash, and plants have a semi-bush habit. When used together with 'Casperita' F! mini white pumpkin, it makes a particularly attractive display. Plants are resistant to Powdery Mildew.



From Neseed.com: 'Bush Sugar Baby' Watermelon is a small plant that delivers big flavor. The "Icebox" size fruit has a thin, rugged rind and sweet red flesh. Bush Sugar Baby is an ideal variety for small gardens. The plants grow only 3 to 4 feet long and each one will have two 7- to 12-lb fruits.



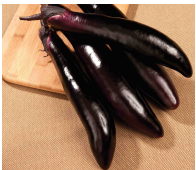
From Reneesgarden.com: 'Mascotte' is the first true container green bean, perfect for pots and small gardens. Developed by French breeders, these fast-growing, sturdy plants are disease resistant and heavy yielding. You'll enjoy the pretty purple blossoms, followed by abundant, slender, crispy beans, which are borne at the tops of the plants, making them easy to pick.



From Reneesgarden.com: 'Climbing Phoenix' Nasturtium is a split-petal, vining nasturtium whose unique petals are shaped like little flames that stand out in a kaleidoscope of colors against ivy-shaped leaves. Carefree Phoenix blooms non-stop, covering the foliage with both bright and pastel edible blossoms, which are gorgeous scattered on salads or used as garnishes.



From Rohrerseeds.com: 'Aspabroc' Hybrid Broccoli resembles a broccoli raab with an asparagus stem, and offers a mild taste. Branded as Broccolini® in the produce section of grocery stores and on restaurant menus, this broccoli hybrid is sweet and tender, and can be harvested over a long period. Broccolini® is a registered trademark of Mann Packing Company, Inc.



From Rohrerseeds.com: 'Shikou' Hybrid Eggplant is a long Asian-type eggplant with dark, glossy fruits that measure 6 to 8 inches long by 1 to 1 1/2 inches wide, have a purple calyx (or stem), very few seeds, thin tender skin, and very a white interior. Plants are very attractive, medium sized and productive.



From Sustainableseedco.com: These new pollinator mixes of annual and perennial flowers provide nectar for multiple butterfly species, and favored forage for honeybees throughout the growing season. Plus they're just plain beautiful. Use in garden beds, borders, and row ends in your vegetable garden!



From [Sustainableseedco.com](https://www.sustainableseedco.com): ‘Fried Green Tomato’ was bred specifically to withstand the rigors of frying. The 7- to 10-ounce fruits are best harvested slightly yellow, when the flavor is almost like a green apple—more sweet than tart. The flesh is firm, making it perfect for any dish that requires you to cook the tomatoes. Another plus: they last forever in cold storage!



From [Victoryseeds.com](https://www.victoryseeds.com): ‘Kangaroo Paw Brown’ is a productive determinate, dwarf-type plant with rugose, regular leaves and two to six ounce, round to flattened-globe shaped fruits that have deep crimson flesh and dark, chocolate colored shoulders when ripe. Developed by the “Dwarf Tomato Project,” this variety offers heirloom-quality fruit on a compact plant.



From [Victoryseeds.com](https://www.victoryseeds.com): ‘Kangaroo Paw Green’ is nearly identical to its sibling, ‘Kangaroo Paw Brown’, except that its fruits average two to five ounces in weight and have green flesh and amber skin when ripe. These new tomatoes are well adapted for container growing and just the right solution for urban gardeners who want to raise homegrown tomatoes but have limited space.



From [Victoryseeds.com](https://www.victoryseeds.com): ‘Kangaroo Paw Yellow’, another in the “Kangaroo Series” of dwarf tomatoes, has determinate, dwarf-type plants with rugose, regular leaves, and produces two to eight ounce, round to flattened-globe shaped fruits that are bright yellow in color when ripe, and very tasty.



From [Territorialseed.com](https://www.territorialseed.com): Heirloom Marriage™ Genuwine Tomato ruby-red slicers are the result of a cross of Brandywine and Costoluto Genovese, two delicious heirloom varieties. This fusion produces beautiful, slightly squat, globe-shaped tomatoes with a delectable flavor, and the indeterminate plants are ready to harvest two weeks before either parent plant.



From [Territorialseed.com](https://www.territorialseed.com): ‘Zavory’ Pepper is a heatless habanero—a little powerhouse of a pepper with lots of taste and only the tiniest bit of zing. If you want to experience the distinctively rich and aromatic flavor of a hot pepper without the flame, ‘Zavory’ is the pepper for you.