

It's about time to start your seeds! Now that spring is here, you have about six to eight weeks until planting out time.

Around here, May 1 is usually the last frost date, but given the weather we've seen this week, it is hard to believe. You can start seeds anytime over the next few weeks. If you have a nice sunny window, you can start them right away, but if you don't have a warm sunny spot, wait for a week or two or your plants might get leggy.

You don't want to plant up all your seedlings right away. I suggest you start with eggplants and peppers this week, as they take awhile to germinate. Next week start tomatoes, onions, leeks, and celery or celeriac. Then pause for a couple weeks before starting brussel sprouts and cabbage. With about two weeks to go before planting out you can start lettuce and other greens. If you have a cold frame, you can start lettuce greens about two weeks earlier than you would to plant outdoors.

In old England the saying is to get your potatoes and peas in by St. Patrick's day, but in New England, you might wait another two or three weeks. I have found that many small animals are very hungry early in spring and putting peas out now is simply feeding them. Again, if you have a cold frame you could start a few early potatoes in a week or so. Provided you have seed potatoes, of course.

Here's how to go about starting seeds. First, make sure your

## Garden plants needed for annual sale

The Quononoquott Garden Club is preparing for their upcoming May 20 Plant Sale and is looking for gardeners who might have perennials to share with the club for this annual fundraising event.

There is no digging or labor required of anyone who wants to donate their excess plants. Teams of club members will make an appointment with each homeowner and gently dig up or divide plants under the direction of the gardener.

Call either Linda Warner, 423-1278, or Donna Drago, 423-2730, to set up an appointment that will be scheduled beginning in mid-April.

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## The Island Garden

By Roger Marshall

seed-planting trays are clean and sterile. If they aren't, fill a tub with warm water, add a little bleach and scrub each tray. If your trays aren't clean, you can get damping off and mildew, which will kill off your seedlings. Fill each tray with moist, good-quality potting soil and pat it down gently. If you grab a handful of potting soil and squeeze hard, you should get just a drip or two of water from it. It should not be any wetter. Spread your seeds over the soil and mark where you have seeded. Spray the seeds with a little water from a garden spray bottle. Now cover the seeds with a little potting soil. I use vermiculite, as it is light and easy to spread. Use a spray bottle to dampen the potting soil or vermiculite and cover the entire potting tray with plastic wrap. The wrap keeps moisture over the seeds. If you don't want to cover with plastic wrap, you should spray the seed flat every day to prevent it drying out.

In three to five days the seeds will sprout. Wait until the majority of the seeds have sprouted and remove the plastic wrap. I place my seed flats under fluorescent lights — two flats will fit nicely under a 4-foot-long shop-light fixture. The lights are placed an inch or two above the seedlings, and they stay there until the seedlings grow almost to the light tubes. At that time, most seedlings have their first true leaves and should be potted.

To pot your seedlings, fill 3- or 4-inch pots with potting soil and holding onto the seedling's leaves not the stem, gently move the plants into the larger pots. You'll have to raise your lights a little, but that shouldn't be a problem. As the plants grow, keep the lights about an inch off the topmost leaves. You will need to harden off your seedlings before you plant them out, but we'll get into that in a month or so.



"Good citizens" were honored recently at the Lawn Avenue school. Above, good citizens from the seventh and eighth grades. Below, good citizens from the fifth and sixth grades.

Photo by Andrea vonHohenleiten

## Good citizens honored at Lawn school

The following students at the Lawn Avenue School were nominated as "good citizens" for being helpful and kind to others in the community:

In grade 5, Molly Sylvia and Nicholas Delmonico. From grade 6, Steven Moorehead, Jon Holmes, Dan Harpool, Sydney Keen, Shay Reilly, Ellen Bednarczyk, Shannon Sheekey, Chris Kopelcheck, Josh Nolan, Taylor Krystowski, Tori Allen, Georgia Wright, Danielle Jennings, Emilio Kurz, Molly Clavenna, Tom



Jackson, Donovan Dougherty, Nicole Perez and Michael Jordan.

From grade 7, Andrew Sakovitz, Julia Hansen, Laura Katz, Nick Lee, Dennis Lathan, Matt Davidson, Kaitlin Godena, Eric Holtzman, Anthony Baccari, Morgan Piela, Noah Robinson, Catherine Cabral, Mark Tiexiera, Ashlin Gillis, Alex Garbelotti,

Lili Flour, Will Spahr and Sam Baugh.

In grade 8, Liz Rounds, Tom Munro, Marjorie Zwolinski, Danielle Perez, Allison Smith, Erica Lush, Ethan Flynn, Katie Bedzarczyk, Kelly Scully, Devon McMaster, Alice Toll, Eliza Chase, Mike Spahr, Kyle Wright and Emily Lester.

## NKHS class of 1996 planning August reunion

Members of the North Kingstown High School class of 1996 will have their 10th reunion on Saturday, Aug. 12, at the Landing in Newport.

Class administrator Sarah Neronha is asking all members of that class to register their information on the class Web site at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/N>

KHS1996reunion so that everyone will receive an invitation to the event.

This class-based reunion group Web site features dynamic changing content daily. Stop in to view

current class news, exchange opinions and stay up to date with the message board. For anyone who does not have Internet access, call Neronha at 207-1496 to update the information.

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## WANTED

### ALL DOG OWNERS

*Residents have until April 30th to register their dogs in the Town of Jamestown. As of May 1st all dogs registered after May 1st are subject to a \$25.00 late fee plus the cost of the license (R.I. General Law 4-13-4). Please register your dog(s) before May 1st to avoid any penalties.*

Per Rhode Island General Law all dogs in the State of Rhode Island are required to be licensed in the town in which they live during the month of April of every year. The license is valid from May 1, 2006 to April 30, 2007. Dogs under the age of six (6) months are exempt.

In order to acquire a dog license, proof of rabies inoculation must be presented to the Town Clerk's Office in person or through the mail. Rabies tags are insufficient because they do not indicate expiration of current vaccination.

Please return the dog license form that was mailed to residents with a fee of **\$5.00 for neutered or spayed dogs** or a fee of **\$15.00** for dogs that are **not neutered or spayed**. Proof of neutering or spaying must be provided if it hasn't been in the past.

If the license is for a new dog, license forms are available at the Town Hall, 93 Narragansett Avenue.

Please join us at the Town sponsored Rabies Clinic located at the Jamestown Volunteer Fire Station on April 1, 2006 at 11:00 am to noon. Dog License will be issued that day.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to call the Town Clerk's Office at 423-7200