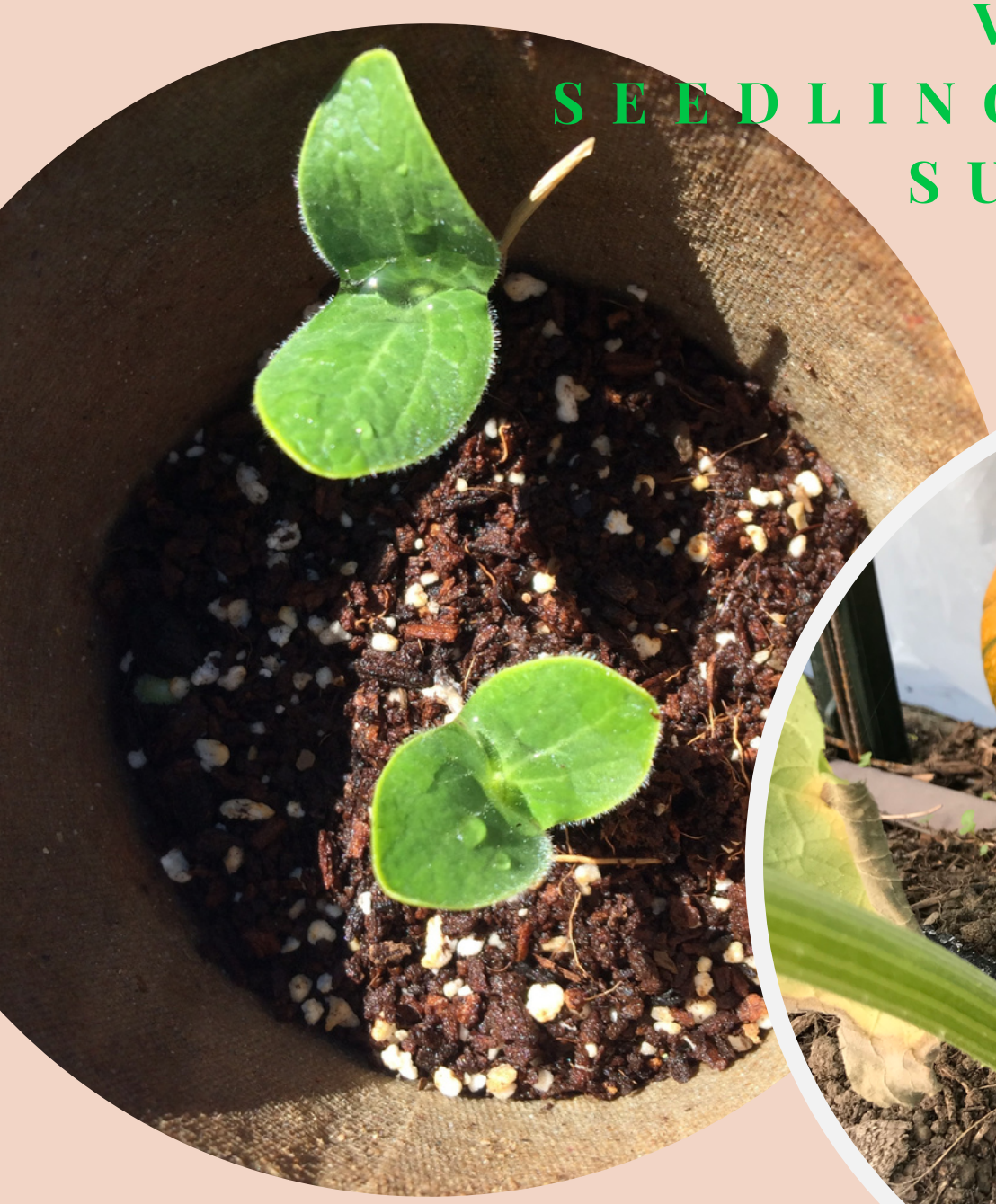
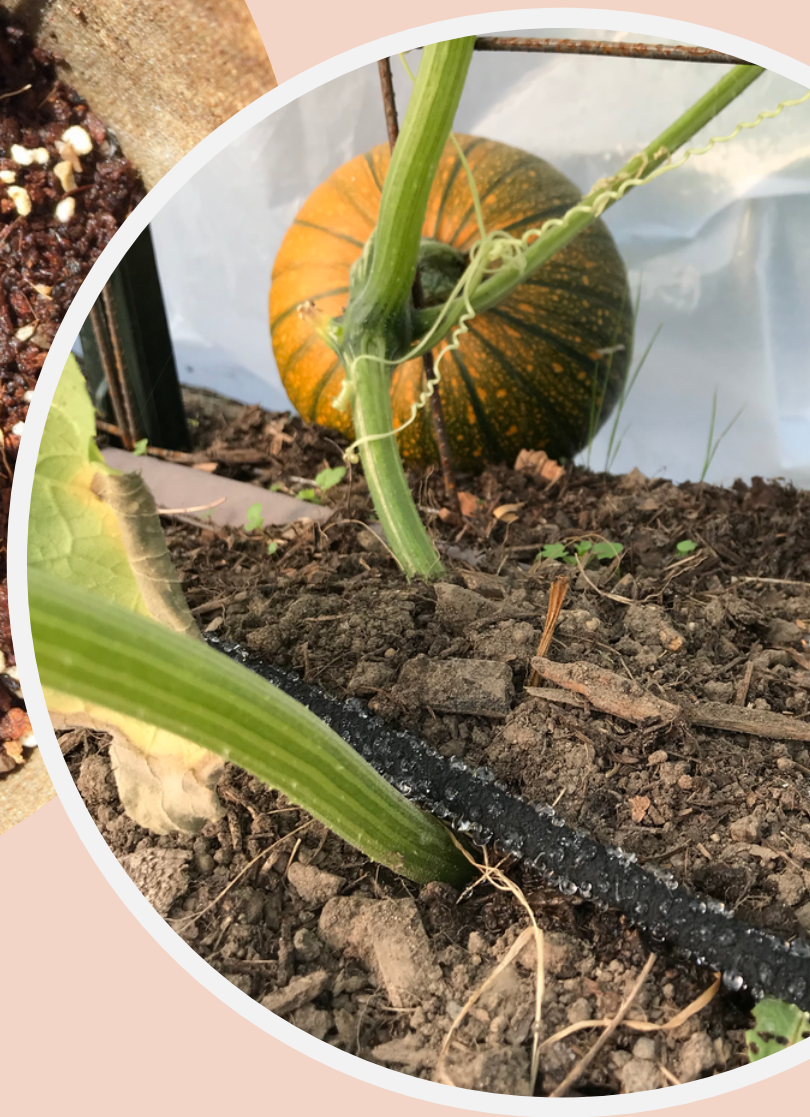
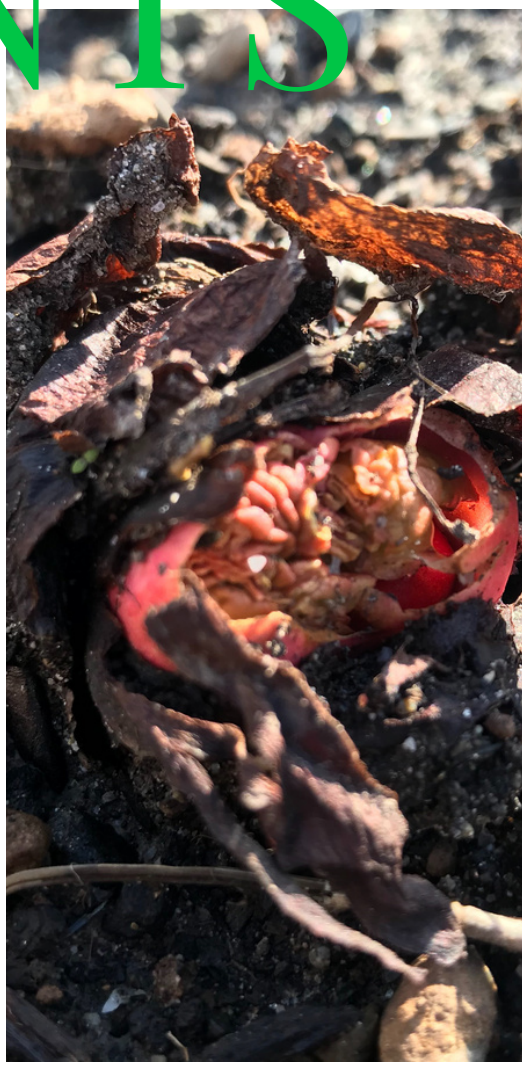
TRANSPLANT YOUR VEGGIE SEEDLINGS FOR SUCCESS

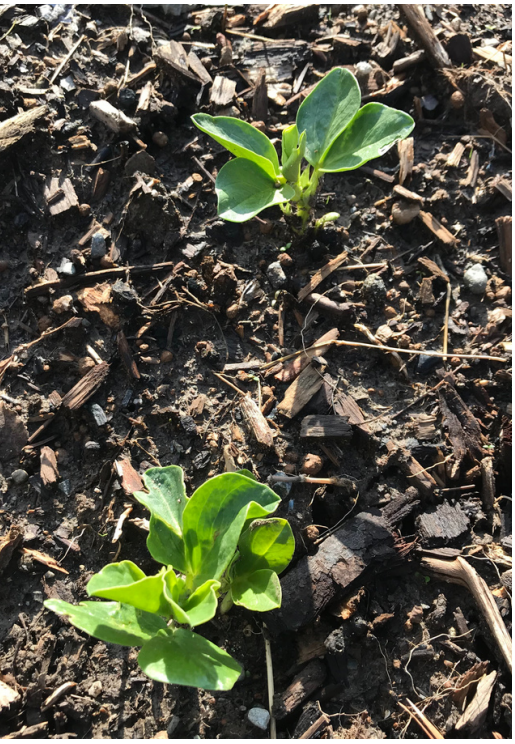




BY WEARY STONE FARM

CONTENTS





ABOUT *Soil*

Your Transplants & Soil Quality

Vegetables and fruits do best in loose, well drained soil with plenty of organic matter. Most crops prefer a pH of around 6-7, with some notable exceptions like strawberries and blueberries, which like it between 5-6.

If you are growing in native soil rather than a raised bed, you will want to start a new bed by growing flowers, a cover crop, or something large seeded and fast growing like beans or peas before trying other vegetables that need more nutrition and better soil.

Adding 1-2 inches of compost between every harvest helps loosen clay soil and adds water holding capacity to sandy soil over time. Getting a soil test helps to figure out what you're starting with as far as available nutrients as well as possible contaminants. Basic soil tests can be done for around $20-$40, depending on what you're testing for.

For King County, the best resource for getting a soil test is King Conservation District. In greater West Seattle, you will also want to check your address to see whether you're in the area affected by historic contamination from the Tacoma Smelter. See resources at the end of this booklet for more information on soil testing and how to look up your address.

ABOUT

Water & Light

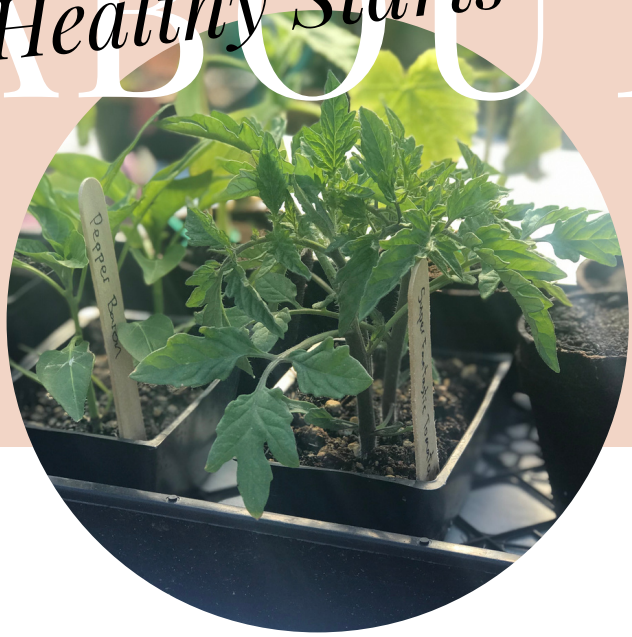
Water

You will need to provide your veggies and fruits about an inch of water per week. Water in the morning, ideally before 10, to allow the water to wick into the soil before the sun gets too hot. In West Seattle because our cool mornings and mild summers create a friendly environment for fungal growth, it's ideal to water the surface of the soil with soaker hoses or irrigation tubing rather than overhead watering with a hose or sprinkler. Setting up irrigation takes time and planning but doesn't need to be physically difficult. Soaker hoses or irrigation tubing can be set up right on top of the soil before planting your transplants and connected to a simple timer so you won't have to think about it. Tubing is a bit more difficult to work with at first but it is less expensive and more durable than soaker hoses.

Light

Make sure you have enough light for your plants. Some cool season plants can put it under other taller things like squash and tomatoes, while the warm season veggies need a minimum of six hours of sunlight per day. Southern exposure is ideal for hotter crops.

Choosing Healthy Starts



Choosing Healthy Starts

Look for starts that are stout and well branched, over tall thin starts that have become “leggy”. If the start is a bit leggy that can be ok, but stouter plants tend to be more vigorous and handle transplant shock more easily. Don’t rush to get your warm season crops into the ground… you can keep watering them in containers until the daytime temperatures are 70°-75° and nighttime temperatures are 55°-60°. When you purchase your starts, confirm whether they have been “hardened off”, meaning taken gradually from a greenhouse environment into the outdoors to acclimate before planting out. If they have not been hardened off, gradually expose them to the outdoors over about 5-7 days until they are being left out all day and night.

.

ABOUT

Transplanting Your Starts

Transplanting in the late afternoon or on a cool misty day helps minimize transplant shock.

Dig a hole one inch wider and deeper than the container your start is in. If you will be adding compost to the planting hole, make the hole large enough to accommodate the compost plus one inch wider and higher than the container.

Open up the root ball a bit with your fingers to assure the roots are spread out and will have good contact with your garden soil.

Place the plant slightly deeper than it was in the pot and cover with ½-1 inch of garden soil. If you are planting a peat or paper pot, be sure and bury the rim so that it doesn't wick moisture out of the root zone of the plant and into the air.

RESOURCES

The Washington State Department of Ecology has an interactive address look up tool for residents to see whether their property is affected by historical contamination from the Tacoma Plume. If you live in greater West Seattle it's a good idea to look up your location:

https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Cleanup-sites/Tacoma-smelter/Soil-sampling

King Conservation District is an excellent resource for soil testing. They offer up to five free soil tests for King County residents and also have resources for tests beyond what they cover.

https://kingcd.org/programs/better-soils/healthy-soil/

Fremont Analytical offers retail soil testing for arsenic and lead if you need that:

https://www.fremontanalytical.com/

We can't wait to see your harvest! Don't hesitate to contact us for troublshooting help and questions.

C O N T A C T

5435 Delridge WY SW
Seattle, WA 98106

(206) 321-1446
hello@wearystonefarm.com

wearystonefarm.com