



Cornell University  
Cooperative Extension  
Otsego County

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Starting Your Garden from Seed 2009**

The Otsego County Master Gardeners are planning to offer workshops to help home gardeners learn how to start and care for a vegetable garden. The workshops are aimed at beginning gardeners but we hope experienced gardeners will come and share some of their “war stories” and advice about vegetable gardening in Otsego County. The workshops will include “hands on” experiences as well as instruction backed by information from Cornell University and other plant scientists. In conjunction with these workshops the Master Gardeners will be starting a Demonstration Vegetable Victory Garden at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Office in Cooperstown. Produce from the garden will be used by the Cooperative Extension's Eat Smart New York! Nutrition Program.

You are invited to attend one, or all of the four workshops we are offering. Participants need to pre-register and there is a fee of \$5 for each of the workshops to cover the cost of materials. All the workshops will be held on Saturdays from 10am-Noon at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Office at 123 Lake St. in Cooperstown. Pre-registration and a \$5 fee are required by calling 607-547-2536 Ext. 235. **Space is limited.** Workshops are listed below.

- **Starting Your Garden from Seed** - Saturday, February 28, 2009, 10am-Noon  
This workshop is for anyone who would like to learn how to successfully start vegetables (or other plants) from seed. Topics will include: Choosing Vegetables You Want to Grow, What Seeds Need to Grow, Sowing Seeds, and Growing Seedlings. What to do with Seedlings, and Hardening Off and Transplanting Seedlings. Participants will be supplied with containers, soil and seeds to use in seed starting. Fee: \$5. Pre-register by Wednesday, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>.
- **Starting a Vegetable “Victory” Garden** - Saturday, March 14, 2009, 10am-Noon  
This workshop is for anyone who would like to learn the basics of vegetable gardening. Topics will include: Choosing a Garden Site, Using Raised Beds in your Garden, Planning your Garden, Gardening Tools, Planting your Garden, Preventing Problems, and Organic Gardening. Participants may design a vegetable garden and learn where to find helpful gardening information on the Internet. Fee: \$5. Pre-register by Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>.
- **Vegetable Gardening in Containers** - Saturday, April 4, 2009, 10am-Noon  
This workshop is for anyone interested in “small-scale” vegetable gardening. If you are only growing vegetables for one or two people or have limited gardening space it is still possible to grow your own fresh vegetables in containers. Topics include: Crop Selection, Growing Media, Containers, Seeding and/or Transplanting, Fertilization, Watering, Light, Diseases and Insects,

Harvesting, and Common Problems. Participants will have the opportunity to plant vegetables in containers. Some information covered in previous workshops will also be covered in this workshop. Fee: \$5.

Pre-register by Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>.

• **Caring for Vegetable “Victory” Garden** - Saturday, May 2, 2009, 10am-Noon

This workshop is for anyone interested in the care of a vegetable garden. Topics will include: Weeding, Watering, Mulching, Common Vegetable Problems, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Composting, Harvesting, and Putting the Garden to Bed for the Winter. Some information covered in previous workshops will also be covered in this workshop. Fee:\$5. Pre-register by Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>.