

A photograph of a garden in winter. Several green plants, likely broccoli or cauliflower, are growing in a field covered with snow. A wire fence is visible in the background. The text "Gardening in the North" is overlaid on the image.

Gardening in the North

Where do I start?

Make a plan:

1. Where?
2. How much \$\$?
3. When to start?
4. What can I plant?



Where?.... Choosing the Garden site

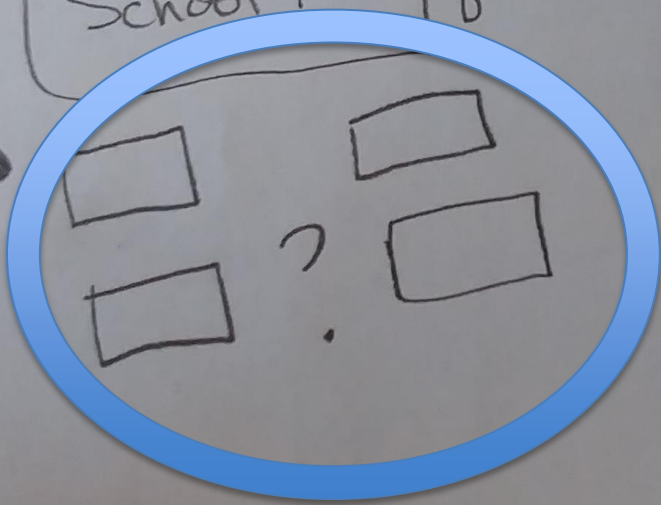
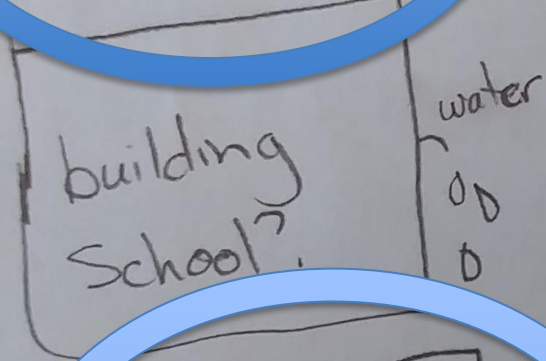
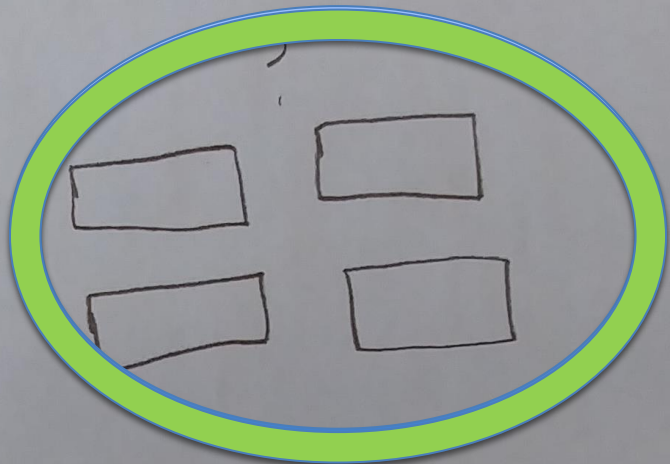
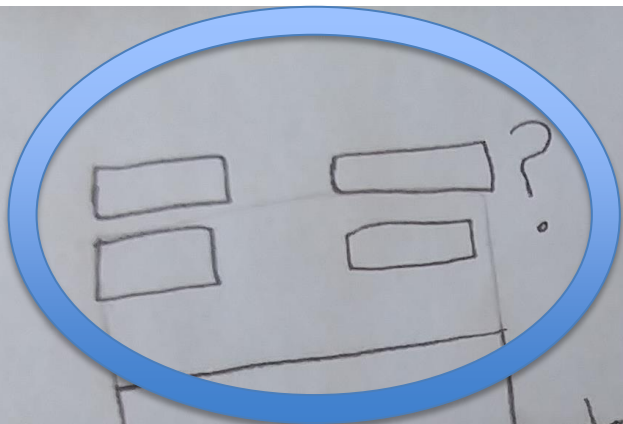
Key components of the site:

- Accessible
- Water access
- Full sun
- Soil quality?
- Some wind protection

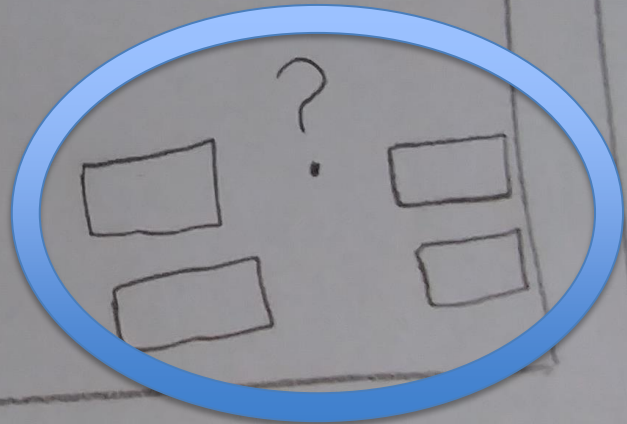
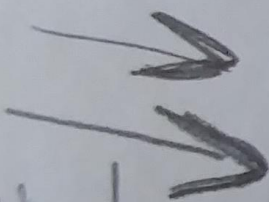
N



S



Wind
direct



Road

The soil

Testing the quality

- Texture (physical characteristics)
- Fertility
- pH



Adding Nutrients: Fertilizers

- Rock fertilizers
- Organic fertilizers



Think what you could use locally?



Compost



Peat



Wood ash



Wood waste



Manure



Animal compost

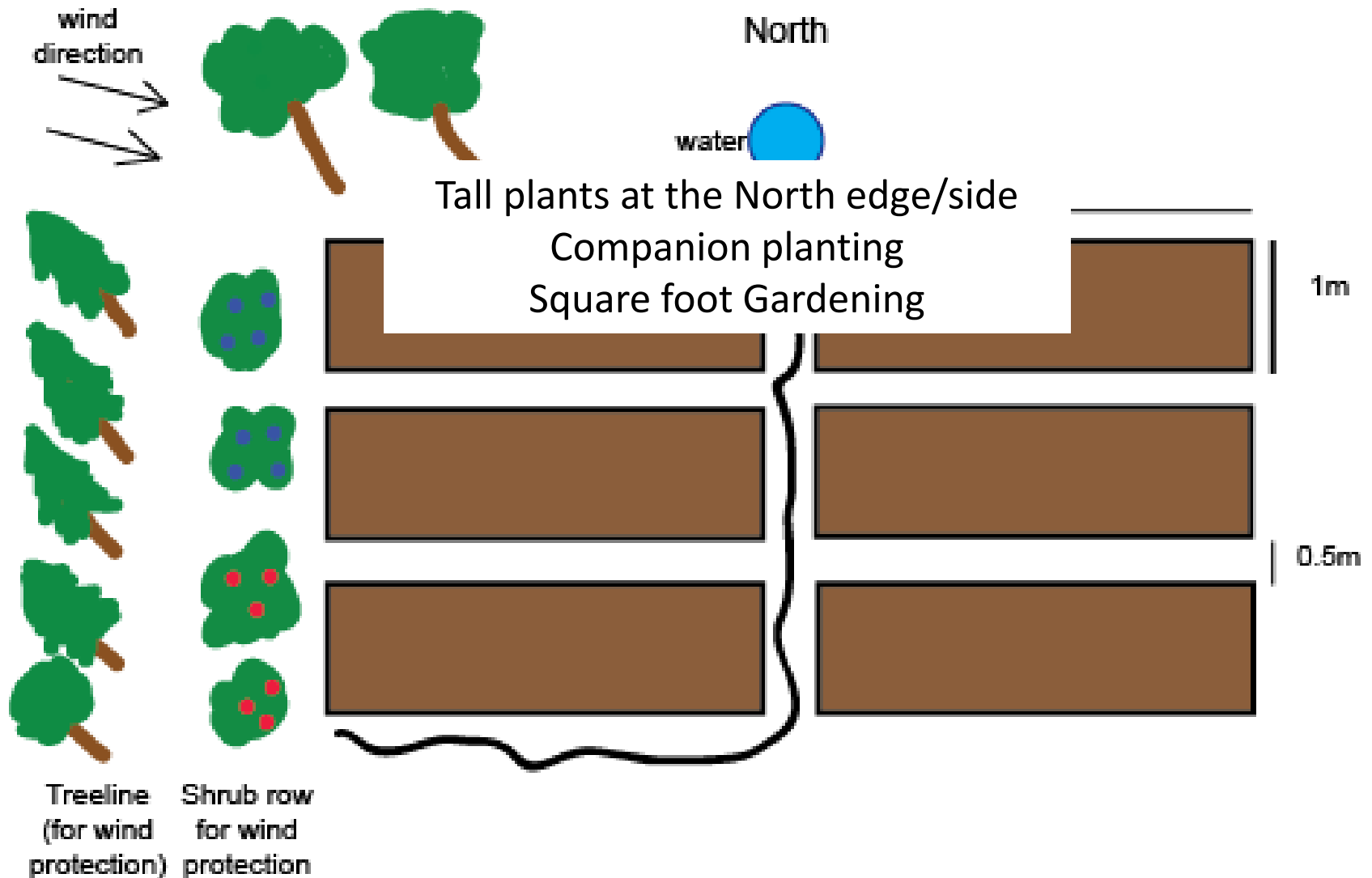
Composting is essential



Types of garden beds



Garden Layout



Fencing?

- Can be expensive depending on materials...
- Keeps out critters and can prevent vandalism



When?

Weeks before last frost	Start indoors	Plant outdoors/ transplant seedlings
10	Celery, Onions, Peppers, Leeks	
9	Parsley	
8	Lettuce, perennial flowers	
6 to 8	Basil, Tomatoes	
5 to 6	Cabbage, Cauliflower	
4 to 5	Cucumbers, pumpkins, Squash	Carrots, peas, spinach, turnip, Onion bulbs, parsley
2 to 3		Lettuce, Asparagus, Beets, Broccoli, Brussel sprouts, Cabbage, Collards, Kale, Potato (tubers), radishes
1 to 2		Corn, sunflowers,
Last frost		Beans, cauliflower, cucumbers, squash, zucchini
1 to 2 (after)		Pumpkins, Celery

What to plant?

- What do you eat?
- What costs a lot to buy?
- Think about climate...



Cold hardy crops

- Arugula
- Beets
- Broccoli
- Brussels sprouts
- Cabbage
- Carrots
- Cauliflower
- Celery
- Kale
- Lettuce
- Onion
- Radishes
- Rhubarb
- Peas
- Spinach
- Parsnip
- Potatoes
- ...



Perennials?

- Haskap
- Local species
 - raspberry
 - blueberries
 - Saskatoons
 - strawberries



Starting your seeds

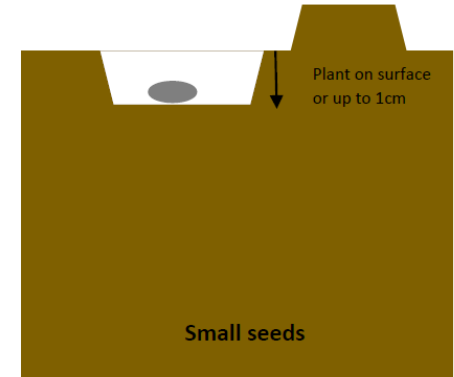
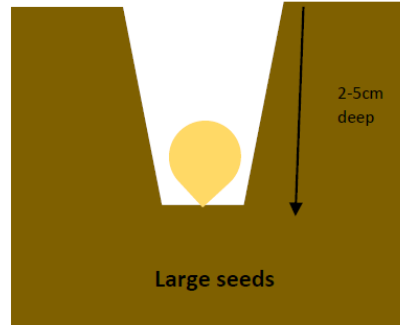
- Water
- Warmth
- Light

- No weeds!

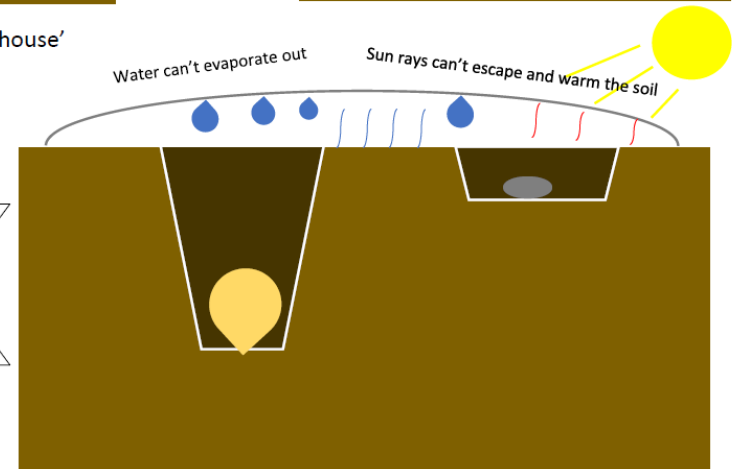
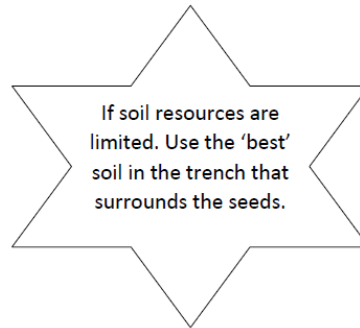
1. Water soil



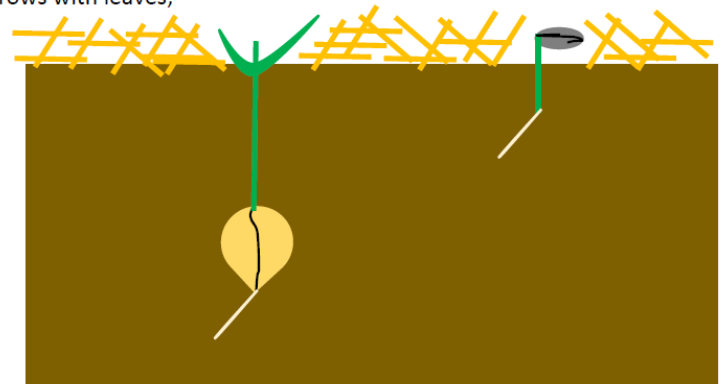
2. Then plant to proper depth



3. Cover with soil and create 'greenhouse'



4. Remove plastic once seeds have sprouted. Water!
Mulch around plants and between rows with leaves, straw, or wood chips.



Collecting from local seed

Gardening in the North

Pros:

- Fewer pests
- Some veggies prefer cold climates

Cons:

- Shorter growing season



Ideas for gardening in the north

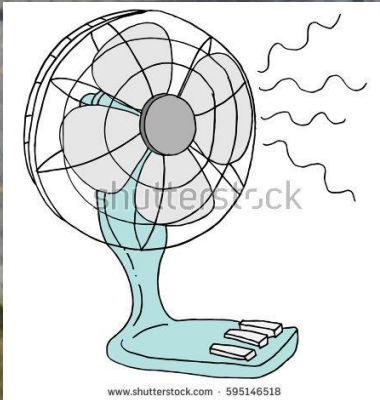
- Hoop houses
- Greenhouses
- Cold-hardy crops
- Select faster growing varieties (gardening books)
- Start early indoors
- Start with clones

Hoop house

Both of these 4' x 7" garden plots have the same soil, nutrients, and sunlight (and are about 10' apart). Both were planted on March 1st, 2012. These photos were taken on April 19, 2012. The left garden had no hoop house. The right garden was under a hoop house. Wow! What a difference!



Greenhouse



How to maintain garden

In the spring:

- Water (add mulch)
- Weed (mulch)
- Support climbing plants



In the fall:

- Save time to harvest
- Look out for frost!



What are the challenges to starting a garden in your community?

- Costs of material
- People
- Vandalism
- Animals eating food
- Soil material

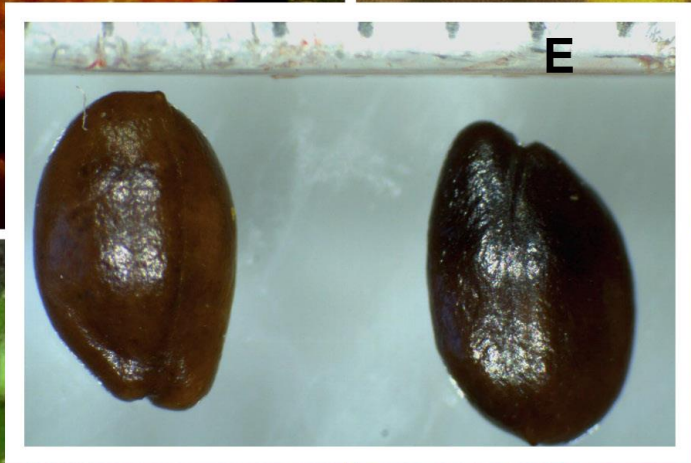
Happy
Gardening



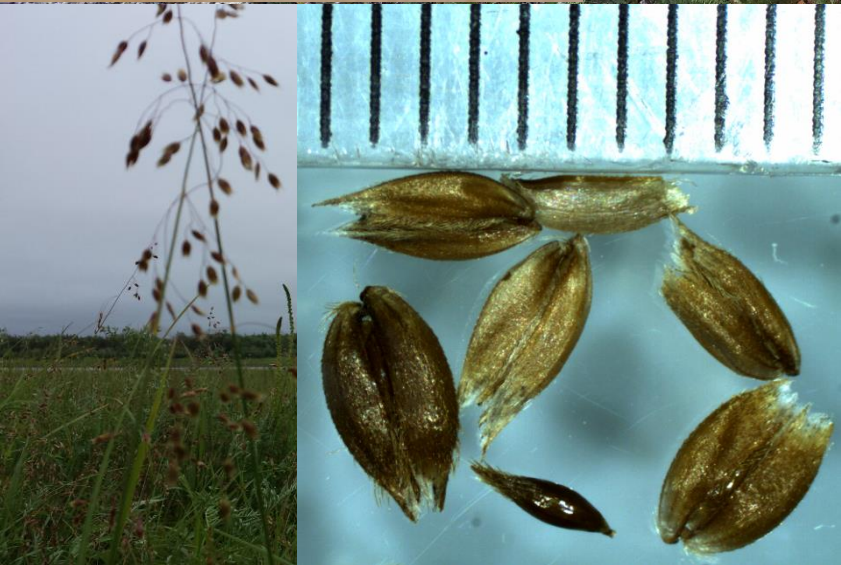
How are seeds made?



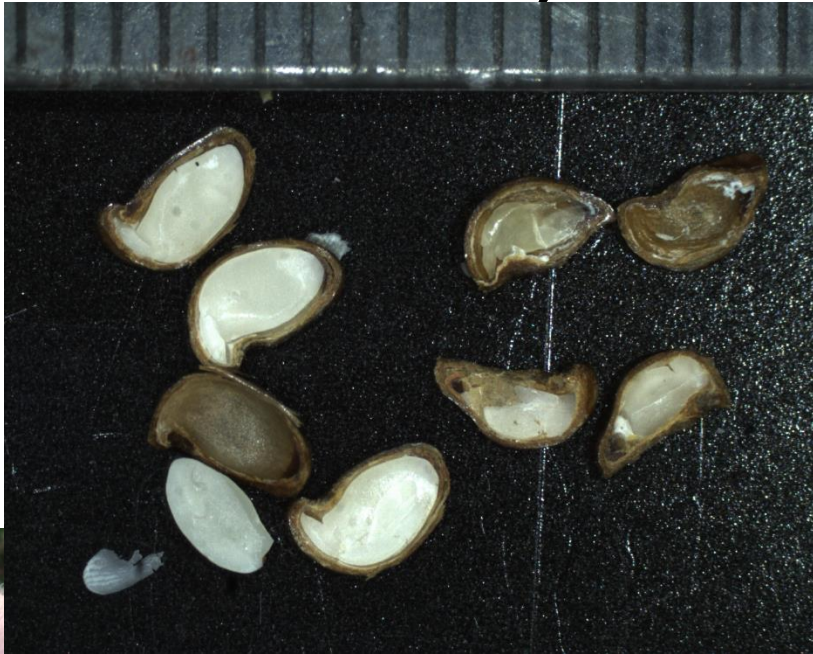
Flowers are not seeds!



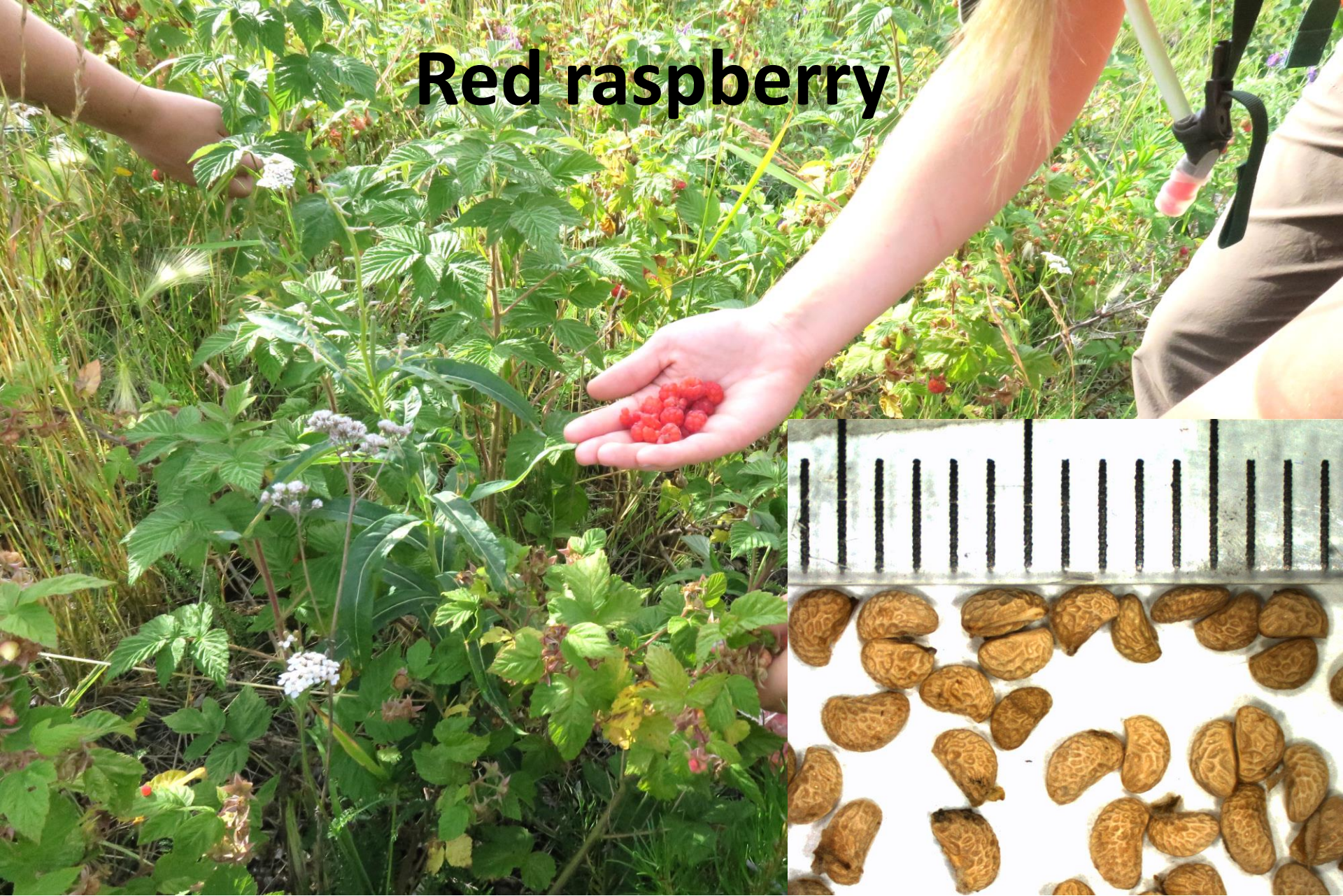
Medicine plants and their seeds



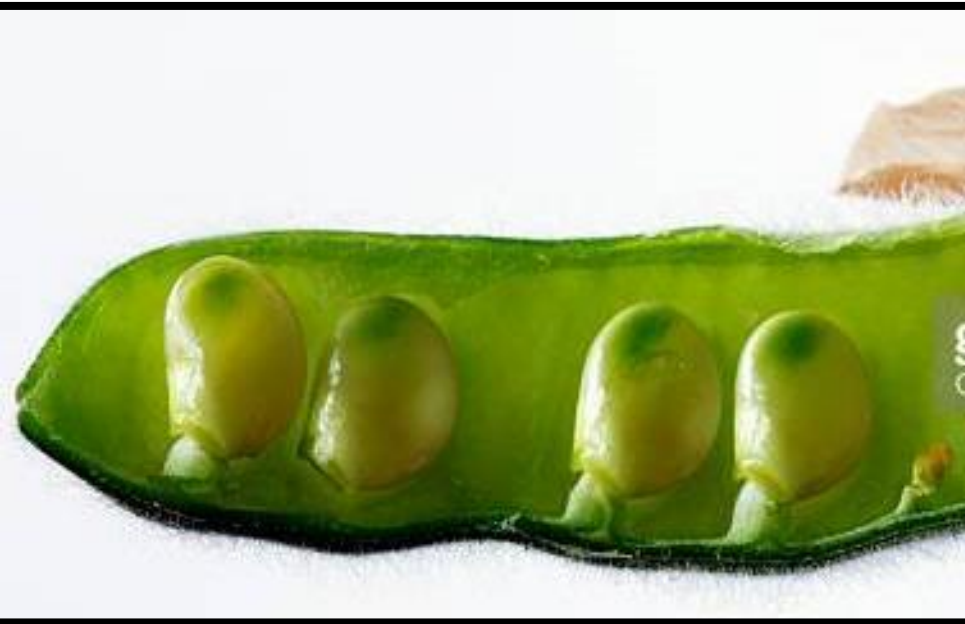
Saskatoon, blueberry, and cranberry



Red raspberry



When is seed ready? Check the seed!



Unripe

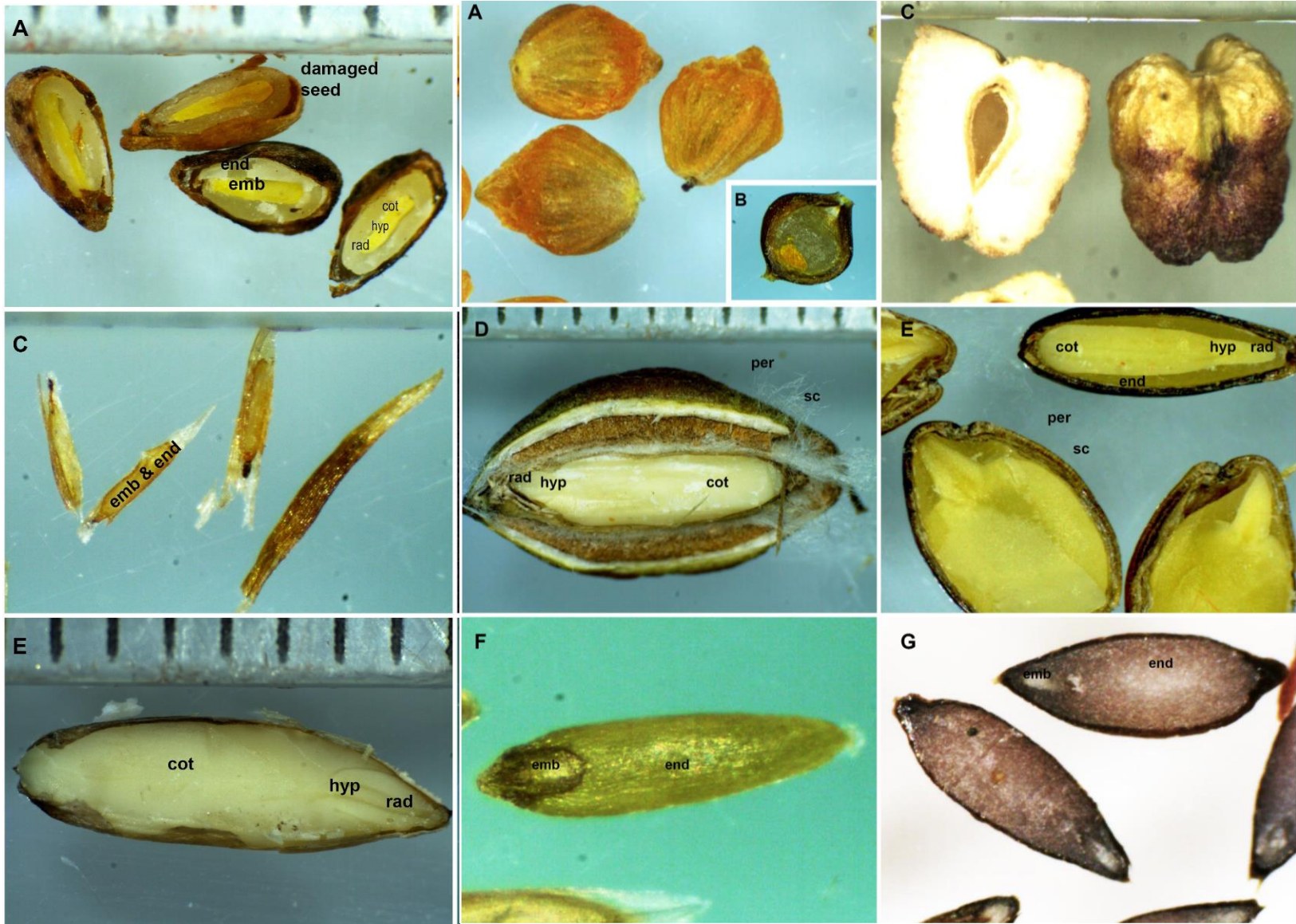
- Seeds: green or pale
- Soft, can be squished
- Doesn't separate from plant



Ripe

- Tan to brown to black (usually)
- Hard or firm, cannot be squished
- Seed separates easily

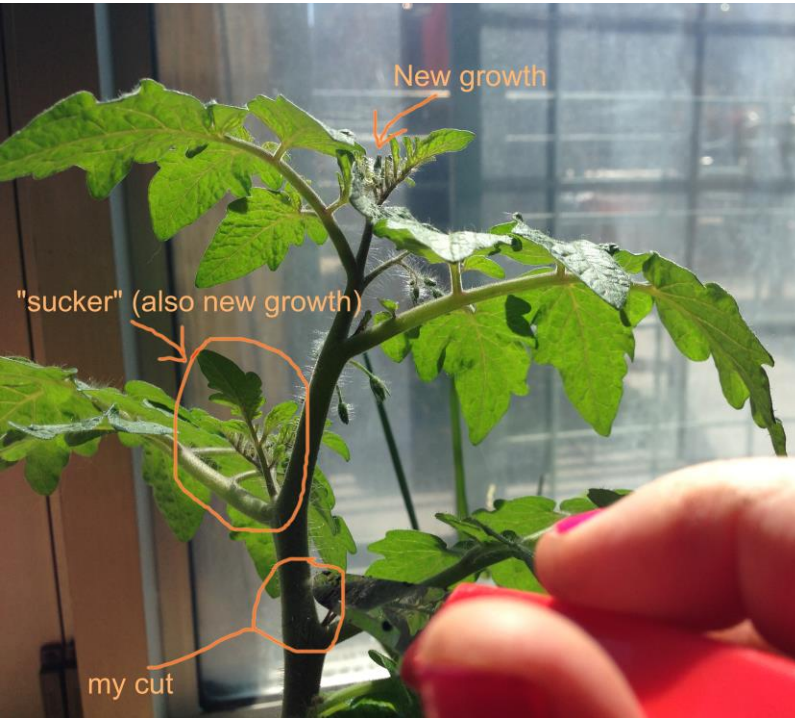
Inside the seed is a living embryo!



Growing seed from local plants

- Plant in the fall! (Or place in between damp paper towel, wrapped in foil, in fridge 2-5 months)
- Moist, cool soil will allow them to sprout in the spring

Cloning tomato and basil cuttings



DIY rooting hormone

- Collect young first-year twigs and stems of any of willow (*Salix* spp.) species, these have green or yellow bark. Don't use the older growth that has brown or gray bark.
- Remove all the leaves, these are not used. Don't waste good green material though, compost the leaves or throw them in the garden as mulch.
- Take the twigs and cut them up into short pieces around 1" (2.5cm) long.
- The next step is to add the water. there are several techniques to extract the natural plant rooting hormones:a) Place the chopped willow twigs in a container and cover with boiling water, just like making tea, and allow the "tea" to stand overnight.
- b) Place the chopped willow twigs in a container and cover with tap water (unheated), and let it soak for several days.
- When finished, separate the liquid from the twigs by carefully pouring out the liquid, or pouring it through a strainer or sieve. The liquid is now ready to use for rooting cuttings. You can keep the liquid for up to two months if you put it in a jar with a tight fitting lid and keep the liquid in the refrigerator. Remember to label the jar so you remember what it is, and write down the date you brewed it up, and to aid the memory, write down the date that it should be used by, which is two months from the date it was made!
- To use, just pour some willow water into a small jar, and place the cuttings in there like flowers in a vase, and leave them there to soak overnight for several hours so that they take up the plant rooting hormone. Then prepare them as you would when propagating any other cuttings.The second way to use willow water is to use it to water the propagating medium in which you have placed cuttings. Watering your cuttings twice with willow water should be enough to help them root.