

# Secrets from a Seed Packet



Spring 2020 Moodle Pilot  
Course Action Project

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# Objectives

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- To evaluate the information on various seed packets
- To determine what additional information is needed to create sustainability
- To discuss 'Right Plant Right Place' criteria
- To evaluate and discuss the importance of the soil
- To consider the benefits native plants provide to the site

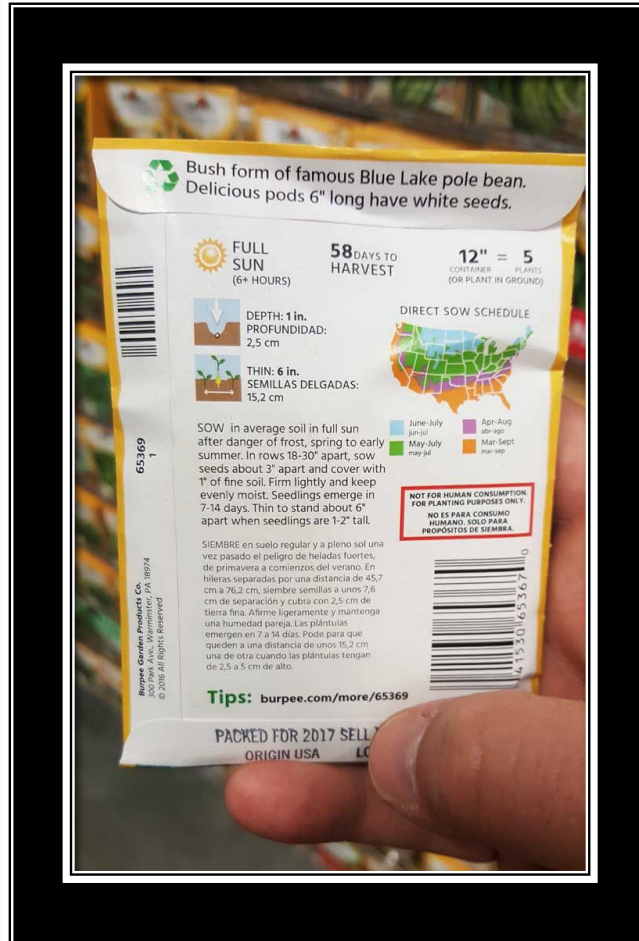




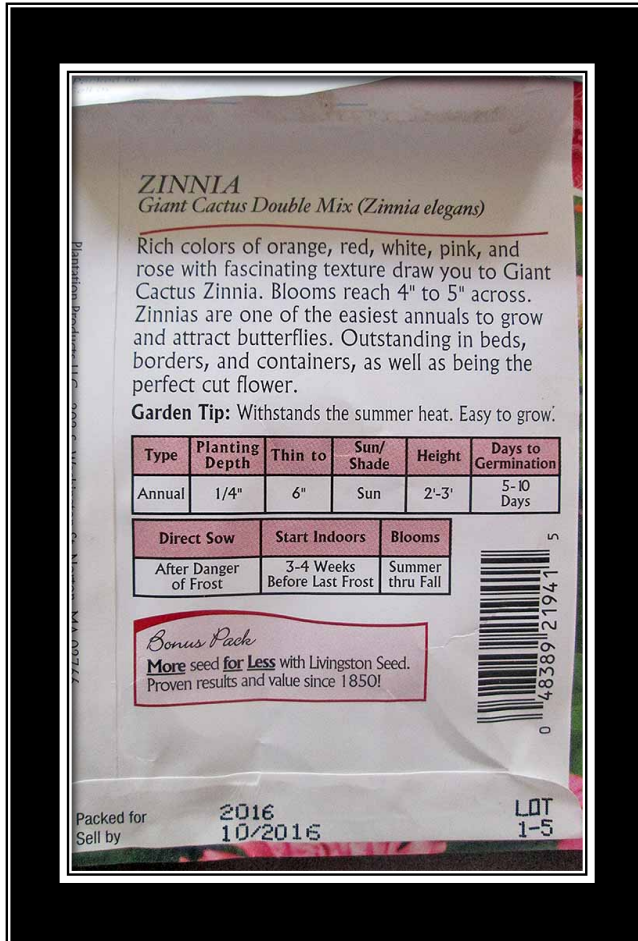
They are so pretty....

- But it's important to take a few minutes to read the packets and plan your space before you purchase.
- Some of the seed varieties available for sale may not be suited to your location.
- Others do best in a certain type of soil or shade condition or need to be started indoors.

# Check packing date



- Although seeds do not technically “go bad,” expiration dates are used as a measure of the likelihood that the seeds will be viable. Depending upon the type of seeds, environmental conditions, and the way the seeds were stored, the germination rate of older seed packets may be compromised.
- You can test the viability of a seed packet, by placing about ten seeds in a moistened paper towel. Place the paper towel into a zip-lock bag and leave at room temperature for ten days. After ten days, check the germination of the seeds. Germination rates of at least 50% show a moderately viable packet of seeds.



## The complete name of the plant

- Common Name: Zinnia
- Cultivar: Giant Cactus
- Latin Name: *Zinnia elegans*

There are more than 20  
species of *Zinnia*... so be sure  
you are getting the one you want.



- *Zinnia acerosa*
- *Zinnia americana*
- *Zinnia angustifolia*
- *Zinnia anomala*
- *Zinnia haageana*
- *Zinnia juniperifolia*
- *Zinnia maritima*
- *Zinnia microglossa*
- *Zinnia oligantha*
- *Zinnia palmeri*
- *Zinnia pauciflora*
- *Zinnia peruviana*
- *Zinnia pumila*
- *Zinnia purpusii*
- *Zinnia tenuis*
- *Zinnia venusta*
- *Zinnia zinnioides*

# Ideal Planting Depth

- Every seed has a unique planting depth. In general, a seed's planting depth is approximately two to three times its diameter size. However, there are exceptions to this rule
- **Seeds** should be sown at proper **depth** so that they can get air, water and later on sunlight for development. Also their roots may develop at proper **depth** to hold **plant**.



# Adhering to spacing is VERY important

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1. Nutrient Intake
2. Disease Management
3. Weeding
4. Ease of Harvest
5. Increased Yield





# Height

- Be aware of the full/mature height of the plants. Plant so all can be seen to their full advantage.
- Plant tall crops on the north end of your garden to prevent them from shading shorter crops that require hot, afternoon sun exposure.



## Planting/Germination Recommendations

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The “days to maturity” number describes the average number of days from planting until it’s time to harvest.

For seeds sown directly in the ground, that means from seeding to maturity.

For those started inside, the days start from the time of transplanting outside.



# Other considerations.....

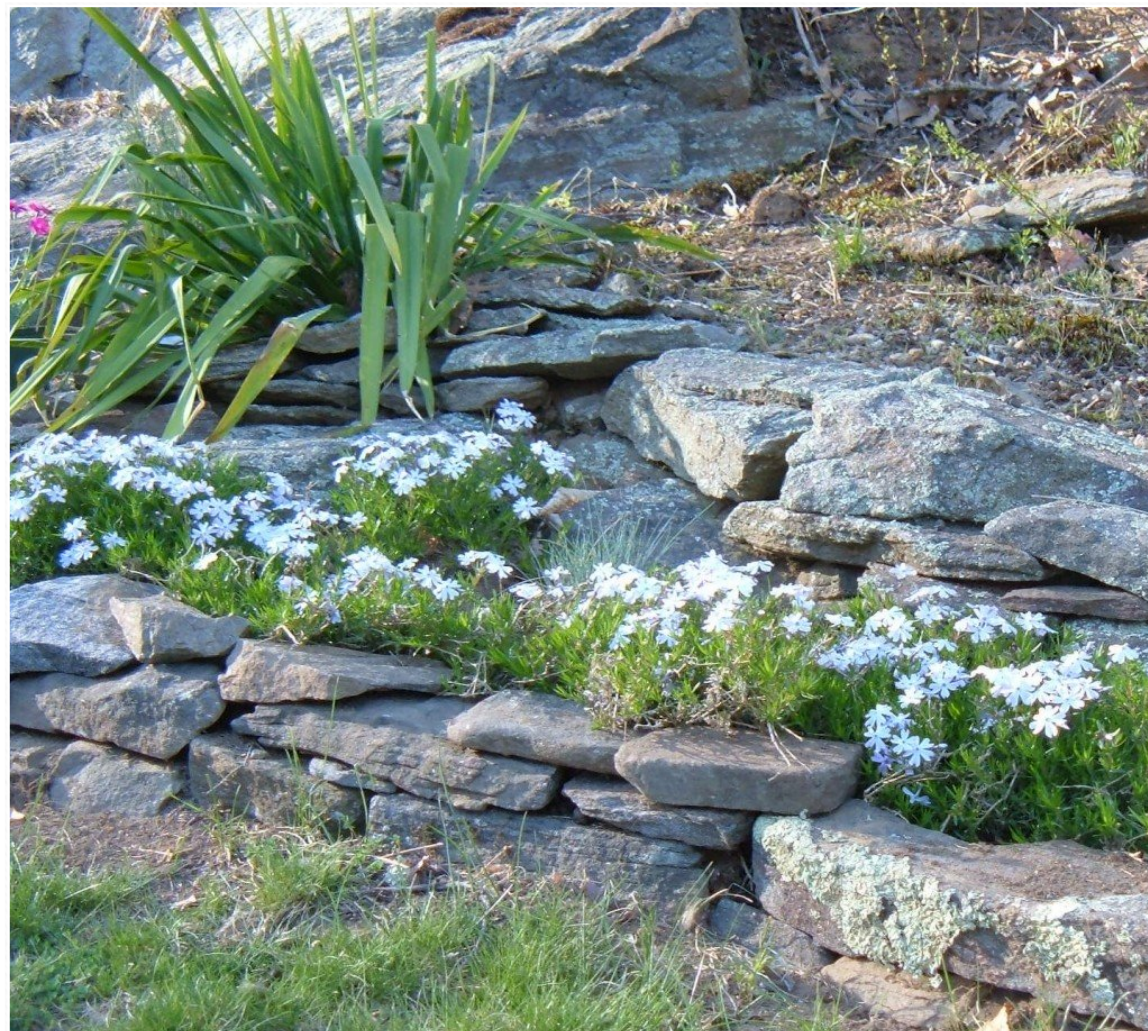
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## Your backyard has its own microclimate.

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In your home garden, buildings, fences, ponds and patios all contribute to what is the characteristic of a microclimate.



# Soil

- **Clay soil** is generally heavy and compact. Plants have a harder time developing roots in clay soil. Clay soil tends to retain water.
- **Sandy soils** are the opposite of clay and generally drain too fast so are unable to hold onto any nutrients long enough for a plant to use them.
- **Loamy soil** is a rich, dark and crumbly and will allow drainage, but still retain enough moisture to be beneficial. Loam is a good balance of sand, clay, silt and organic matter. Loam is the best type of soil for growing almost everything!



# Native plants

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- When native plants thrive in their original environment, they create a natural habitat for wildlife that is beneficial.
- If your garden has no native plants, it becomes an ecological desert for the pollinating insects that are essential to our survival.
- In addition, native plants are not invasive.



## Right Place Right Plant

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The whole concept behind right plant, right place is that if you choose plants that are well-suited to the location where they are planted, they will perform well with limited additional input. Plants that are well suited to their site will establish quickly, they will have a healthy root system, and be healthier plants.

1. How much sun does the location receive?
2. Consider the soil
3. Is the bed close to a water source?
4. Is the bed in a high traffic area or out of the way?
5. What structures are near the bed that might affect it?
6. What is your USDA hardiness zone?.
7. Are there any other factors to consider?

Is this the right place for this plant?



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*"Gardening is the art  
that uses flowers & plants  
as paint, and the soil and  
sky as canvas" - Elizabeth Murray*



# Questions

