



GETTING TOUGH SEEDS TO SPROUT? Readers have asked me why it is that their radish, carrot, beet and other seed "never did a thing" after it was sowed in the ground. Don't blame it on the seedman because chances are he sold you good seed. He wouldn't stay in

business long if he sold bad seed. Then why didn't the seed sprout? I'll list several reasons: (1) Deep sowing. Some seed has small pushing up power, and it rots before it can germinate. (2) Drying out. If seed starts

to sprout, then dries out, it may die before it can push up through the soil.

(3) Hard, clay soil on top of seed. Rains or irrigation water may cause soil to pack or cake, making it difficult for seed to penetrate. Covering with peat-moss, rotted compost or other organic material will prevent this. Covering "difficult" seed with a board after sowing is a good trick. It prevents drying out, prevents soil from caking and hastens germination.

(4) Over-treated seed. Some home gardeners treat seed in hot water, kerosene, and various chemicals. These may reduce the viability of the seed and cause poor germination.

ITALIAN EGGPLANT RECIPE: Here's a \$4.00 d'one to keep in mind, if you like eggplant. Peel and slice one large eggplant. Cover with water, bring to a boil and drain. Dip slices in bread crumbs, arrange alternately with spaghetti sauce, in casserole. Cover with Mozzarella cheese slices and bake in moderate oven until eggplant is tender, and cheese is melted.

More people must "discover" eggplant! Properly cooked, it's one of the best vegetables you can put on your table.

(FR) Send me a self-addressed stamped envelope and ask for a copy of my bulletin, "How To Grow and Cook Eggplant." My guide is packed full of recipes sent me by French, Lebanese, Italian and American cooks. You should have a copy.

PETUNIAS AGAIN: If petunias have turned yellow, it may be due to too much water, poor drainage or fertilizer burn. A pale color could mean a lack of nitrogen, but do not apply it if you've already fed the plants heavily. Holes in leaves means small injury. Scatter some melaleucide balls near the base of the plants.

Use Raw Potato

To remove that unsightly brown film from vases, place a few pieces of finely chopped raw potato in the vase. Add half a cup of vinegar and shake well. Wash with warm soapy water. Rinse well and dry.

The flowers of evening primrose are like delicate, deep golden sunshine. These cheerful plants and their close relatives, the sundrops, are brightening many area gardens. The wild evening primrose, which is a common weed in local meadows, has flowers which open in the evening, but many of the garden varieties bloom in the daytime.

One of the showiest of the evening primroses is the variety known botanically as *Oenothera fruticosa* variety Young. It is a strong, bushy plant with attractive glossy foliage and bright lemon yellow flowers on sturdy two foot stems.

A profusion of flowers are born from June through August. This day-blooming evening primrose will flower freely in light shade as well as in full sun.

The variety *O. glauca* Fraseri and the *Tetragonia* hybrids are covered during the summer with trusses of buttercup flowers. Adding to the charm of the plants are the glossy bright green leaves, reddish stems, and red buds. The flowers open in the daytime.

THE MISSOURI PRIMROSE is a choice plant for the rock garden. It grows about a foot high and has immense yellow flowers which open in the evening. The smallest of the evening primroses is *O. perennis* which

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grows only four inches tall. In addition, to the evening primroses with sunny yellow flowers, there are some varieties with white or yellow flowers. *O. speciosa* has white flowers

on two foot plants all summer. The variety named *rosea* has pretty pink flowers. The evening primroses and sundrops are easy to grow. They will thrive in any ordinary garden soil in a sunny situation.

Good drainage is important because they do not grow well in soil that is too moist. They require no special attention and add large masses of bright color to the garden all summer long.

Try them for a big "splash" for little effort. Because they grow so well in light, hot, dry soil they are the perfect plant for a sunny vacation cabin.

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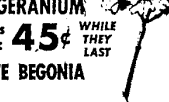
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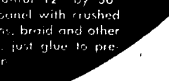
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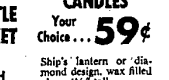
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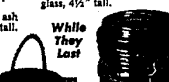
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