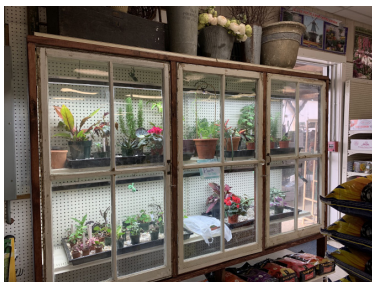




633 W Broadway
Gardner, MA
978-632-0991
www.thegoodearthfgc.com



Hours:
Monday to Friday:
8:30 am to 5:30 pm
Saturday:
8:30 am to 4:00 pm
Sunday:
closed



Well – the January to March inversion continues with a real whopper of a storm. It's raging outside our windows as I type this – and we haven't seen the road grader for over 6 hours – what a plume that's going to leave when it finally gets here!!! Doesn't really bear thinking about... so... let's think about positive things like seeds and seeding!!!! We're coming up on the best possible times to start all kinds of seeds. And seeds provide so much hope! Everyone needs a little hope the snow will go and the gardens will GROW!

There are potting mixes for almost all needs – and we're really pleased that there's such a wide range to choose from (to match all those different gardening needs). Make sure you check out Coast of Maine's Stonington blend - Click Here developed for the marijuana trade, but so incredibly excellent for any high performing plant in a container – whether tomatoes, cucumbers, zinnias or dahlias – it's an excellent blend. You'll also find Fox Farm's Happy Frog and Ocean Forest potting soils, Black Gold's all purpose and seedling mix and – my personal favorite – Promix – a truly professional mix with mycorrhizal inoculants built in. Happy to answer any questions about any of the mixes – and walk you through how to get your seeds off to their best start. In fact, we've posted a worksheet to the website that outlines the basics of getting seeds started off right. We've also started a few trays of seeds in different mixes (onions for now, but will add more) at the back of the store so that you can check out how each mix works and see how the seedlings perform. You'll find them on the back shelves near the library and the classroom tables...

And now for a dose of real cuteness!! Have to think cute while the storm rages...Got Bunnies? Want to Get Bunnies? Spring (and Easter) seems to bring out the interest in rabbits and other house pets. House rabbits/Guinea pigs, chinchillas, degus and hedge hogs are a totally fascinating addition to any household that likes an easy but entertaining pal to l paround with.

Did you know that your rabbit has a brain?? And, actually, wants to use it?? (don't you wish that was true for all warm-blooded brains!!!) It's easy to think they're just a cute living ornament, but really – they're an inquisitive and active member of your family. Since we've started working with the store's small animal owners, we've been charmed by story after story about rabbits, Guinea pigs (that have no "pig" in them!), chinchillas, degus and hedge hogs.

There are specific feeds for all of them of course (and we're even carrying the juvenile and senior versions), but what's really fascinating is the toys – all of the marvelous enrichment toys that these charming animals want to play with. Every-one seems to totally understand treats and toys for dogs and cats, but rabbits and Guinea pigs??? Yes!! And – they have preferences!! There are balls to bounce (with their back feet), danglies to pull down with their front feet (all are safe to eat!!) and all kinds of digging/chewing toys and treats for those other boring mo-ments. Rabbits can be housetrained as well and can spend most evenings hanging out with the family. And let's not forget the treats... Did you know there are all kinds of hays for these pets – including an herbal hay mix? Wish our goats had access to this kind of quality for their hay! There are even "cookies" for those necessary afternoon snacks...

We also want to provide a shout-out to the House Rabbit Network and their incredible work rescuing rabbits and Guinea pigs by clicking [HERE](#). Please take a moment to reach out to them if you are interested in house rabbits and other small house pets.

Staying with the theme of cute and spring - the first batch of chicks is almost here. This first batch order is closed, but there's plenty of time to order from the later batches due in every two weeks until the end of May. We have everything you need to set up a safe growing zone for your baby birds and will have all of it on hand when we call you with the delivery dates. Ask for the order forms at the front desk, and we'll happily add your order to the lists. If you're not sure what's needed to get your chicks off smoothly then make sure you grab our next workshop on chickens next weekend. Our instructor Nyki knows what she's doing and can answer your questions.

Sat March 18 10:00-11:30am Getting Chicks Started Right! (\$15)

For those of you who couldn't make Nyki's first program... You've decided to grow your own chickens and get your own eggs. EXCELLENT! Homesteader dreams most often start with fresh home-grown eggs - and they can't be beat - but let's do it right! Nyki Clark loves working with her chickens and is happy to provide the necessary details that you'll need to be successful with your new chicks and help them get off to a healthy start. (limit - 10)

Sat March 18 1:00 - 2:30pm Growing Quality Dahlias (\$15)

Dahlias are hard to beat for mid-late summer drama both in the garden and in a vase. Join us as we walk through how to bring the best out of a simple dahlia tuber. I've used Dahlias for years to keep color going in the garden into October. (limit - 10)

Sat March 25 1:00-2:30pm Making Raised Beds Really Work (\$15)

Raised beds (and LARGE containers!) are a boon to anyone who can't (or won't) get down on the ground and can be placed anywhere regardless of soil quality (or no soil at all) below the bed...But...a lot of raised beds don't thrive and produce, especially after the first year. Raised beds are different from in-ground garden beds and there are techniques that will assure your success once you put them into practice. (limit - 10)

