

# Planning for Sustainability

January 2019



# In cooperation with Missouri Valley Master Gardeners





**Thank goodness my seed catalogs finally arrived. I almost starting cleaning the house.**

# Sustainability for 2019

sus·tain·a·bil·i·ty

/səˌstānəˈbilədē/

*noun*

noun: **sustainability**

the ability to be maintained at a certain rate or level.

"the sustainability of economic growth"  
avoidance of the depletion of natural resources  
in order to maintain an ecological balance.

"the pursuit of global environmental  
sustainability"

# Three Principals of Sustainability for Yankton Seed Library



- People – maintain and grow participation in our program
- Product-ensure we have a growing seed selection
- Positive impact-continue meaningful information to new and continuing gardeners

# Extending your Season

- anything that allows a crop to be cultivated beyond its normal outdoor growing season
- plant crops 4-6 weeks sooner and keep them alive longer
- helps you adjust to whatever the weather brings



# Plan ahead



- Mulch in fall
- Have seeds on hand early
- Use winter down time to research, read, plan, map
- Collect supplies: pots, soils, soil amendments, plastic containers, etc.

# Cold frames

- Start plants earlier in the spring
- Allows for ventilation and temperature control
- Choose site protected from harsh winds
- Face south or southwest
- Sink frame 8-10" into ground
- Plant seeds directly or use to harden indoor starts





# Milk jug gardening



- Drill holes for drainage
- Plant directly into potting soil (early greens) or into small pots (transplants)
- Label jugs: date & variety
- Water, seal shut with duct tape
- Set in a sunny, protected location 4-8 weeks before average last frost

# Raised beds

- Warm up more quickly in the spring
- Additional protection with fabric row or plant covers, which retain heat and provide 2-8° frost protection



# Mulch



- Pull fall mulch off planting beds to expose soil
- Cover with black plastic to boost soil temperature
- Plastic can be left on or removed when planting
- Cut holes in plastic for transplants

# Low Tunnels

- 24-38” wide. 7 ft. width of plastic goes over hoops. Bungee cords connect plastic to hoops
- Lift plastic for ventilation
- May add drip water lines
- Additional frost protection with fabric row covers



# High tunnel



- unheated plastic-covered structures that provide environmental protection
- Consider wind orientation
- Thickness of plastic depends on location
- Research plant varieties: some are better adapted to this environment

# Resources

- How to build cold frames:  
<https://www.sunset.com/garden/backyard-projects/cold-frames>
- Milk jug gardening:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=13&v=jSojUUHRwCQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=13&v=jSojUUHRwCQ)
- Setting up low tunnels:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RnjNBsRNw5I>
- High tunnel & greenhouses:  
<http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/high-tunnel-and-greenhouse>

# Soil Health with Brent Broberg

