Margaret Roach, former garden editor of Martha Stewart Living [Gardens in Copake, NY, blogs at A WAY TO GARDEN (<http://awaytogarden.com/>)]

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| THE SEED SERIES TOPICS: <http://awaytogarden.com/tag/seed-series/> | |
| * Lessons from Thomas Jefferson’s vegetable garden * Shopping the seed catalogs * Oddball edibles: unusual vegetables to grow * Best tomatoes: heirloom picks, plus the dwarf tomato project * How to grow spinach (w. Tom Stearns of High Mowing) * Crazy cucurbits * Grow onions from seed * A new ‘brand’ of seed in town: OSSI (open source seed initiative) |  |
| FABULOUS FAQ TOPICS: <http://awaytogarden.com/garden-faq/> | |
| [12 Top Composting FAQs:](http://awaytogarden.com/12-top-composting-faqs)What to put in the heap (and not); what to enclose it all in (or do you even need a bin at all?); how to speed things up, when (and whether) to turn, and all the other key how-to’s of making black gold.  [Flower-Bulb FAQs:](http://awaytogarden.com/faq/flower-bulb-faqs) Why didn’t your daffodils bloom? How to grow dahlias? What bulbs will naturalize (and not); which ones are animal-proof? All this and more.  [Pruning FAQs:](http://awaytogarden.com/garden-faq/pruning-faqs)When to prune what, and how to make the basic cuts. Lilacs, fruit trees, hydrangeas and more.  [Mulch FAQs:](http://awaytogarden.com/mulch-faqs) What makes good mulch (and doesn’t)? When and how much to apply? Do you mulch pots, too? And more.  [Tomato-Growing FAQs](http://awaytogarden.com/tomato-growing-faqs): Heirlooms or hybrids? How deep and when to plant? From seed, step-by-step; staked vs. caged. And more.  [Tomato-Troubles FAQs](http://awaytogarden.com/tomato-troubles-faqs): Worried about late blight? Have hornworms, or spots on leaves, no fruit set or fruit that’s disfigured? The lowdown.  [20 Top Seed and Seed-Starting FAQs:](http://awaytogarden.com/20-top-seed-and-seed-starting-faqs) From tips and techniques to the ethics or organics and GMOs, the top answers about growing from seed.  [Cucumber-Growing FAQs:](http://awaytogarden.com/cucumber-growing-qa-and-the-best-pickles-ever) Flowers but no cucumbers? Misshapen or bitter cukes? Wilting vines? And what in the world is a gherkin, really? | |

AWAY TO GARDEN TURNS 9 IN MARCH 2017, plenty old enough to have a “greatest hits” list. Here are the reader favorites. Enjoy!

1. [the tricky matter of when to harvest garlic](http://awaytogarden.com/the-tricky-matter-of-when-to-harvest-garlic/)
2. [what to plant now for a fall vegetable garden](http://awaytogarden.com/what-to-plant-now-for-a-fall-vegetable-garden/)
3. [how to freeze parsley, chives and other herbs](http://awaytogarden.com/how-to-freeze-parsley-chives-and-other-herbs/)
4. [when to start seed](http://awaytogarden.com/when-to-start-seeds-calculator/)
5. [tips for growing better tomatoes from seed](http://awaytogarden.com/tips-for-growing-better-tomatoes-from-seed/)
6. [farm-fresh peaches, frozen to perfection](http://awaytogarden.com/farm-fresh-peaches-frozen-to-perfection/)
7. [growing potatoes organically: when and how to plant, hill and harvest](http://awaytogarden.com/growing-potatoes-organically-when-and-how-to-plant-hill-and-harvest/)
8. [growing and storing a year of parsley](http://awaytogarden.com/growing-and-storing-a-year-of-parsley/)
9. [Dan Koshansky’s refrigerator dill pickles](http://awaytogarden.com/dan-koshanskys-refrigerator-pickles/)
10. [10 thoughts on successful underplanting](http://awaytogarden.com/10-thoughts-on-successful-underplanting/)
11. [what’s in pickling spice? some recipes](http://awaytogarden.com/whats-in-pickling-spice-some-recipes/)
12. [why vegetable seedlings stretch and get spindly](http://awaytogarden.com/why-vegetables-seedlings-stretch-and-get-spindly/)
13. [6 lessons about hosta, with Tony Avent](http://awaytogarden.com/things-i-didnt-know-about-hosta-with-tony-avent/)
14. [hot plant: Stewartia, an ideal small tree](http://awaytogarden.com/hot-plant-stewartia-an-ideal-small-tree/)
15. [when to start what: vegetable-seed calculators](http://awaytogarden.com/when-to-start-what-vegetable-seed-calculators/)
16. [there’s more than one way to ripen a tomato](http://awaytogarden.com/theres-more-than-one-way-to-ripen-a-tomato/)
17. [the toughest groundcovers I rely on](http://awaytogarden.com/the-toughest-groundcovers-i-rely-on/)
18. [slideshow of my 54 top shade plants](http://awaytogarden.com/new-slideshow-of-my-51-top-shade-plants/)
19. [what weed is it? putting names to pesky plants](http://awaytogarden.com/what-weed-is-it-putting-names-to-pesky-plants/)
20. [grow healthy tomatoes: staking and pruning](http://awaytogarden.com/how-to-grow-tomatoes-good-tomato-hygiene/)
21. [garden prep: how to make a bed, with cardboard](http://awaytogarden.com/garden-prep-how-to-make-a-bed-with-cardboard/)
22. [just saying no to deer, with fencing](http://awaytogarden.com/just-saying-no-to-deer-with-fencing/)
23. [how to grow carrots, with dr. john navazio](http://awaytogarden.com/how-to-grow-carrots-with-dr-john-navazio/)
24. [estimating viability: how long do seeds last?](http://awaytogarden.com/estimating-viability-how-long-do-seeds-last/)
25. [growing and storing a year of garlic](http://awaytogarden.com/growing-and-storing-a-year-of-garlic/)
26. [beloved conifers: weeping alaska cedar](http://awaytogarden.com/beloved-conifers-weeping-alaska-cedar/)
27. [from the forums: pruning viburnums](http://awaytogarden.com/from-the-forums-pruning-viburnums/)
28. [skins-on easy tomato sauce to freeze](http://awaytogarden.com/skins-easy-tomato-sauce-freeze/)
29. [when inner conifer needles turn yellow or brown](http://awaytogarden.com/when-inner-conifer-needles-turn-yellow-or-brown/)
30. [soil-saving tricks for planting big pots](http://awaytogarden.com/soil-saving-tricks-for-planting-big-pots/)
31. [clafoutis batter, universal solvent of fruit dessert](http://awaytogarden.com/clafoutis-batter-universal-solvent-of-fruit-dessert/)
32. [10 tips for growing blueberries in the backyard](http://awaytogarden.com/10-tips-for-growing-blueberries-in-the-backyard-win-lee-reichs-book-and-come-meet-him-may-11/)
33. [how to grow garlic, a q&a with Filaree Farm](http://awaytogarden.com/how-to-grow-garlic-a-qa-with-filaree-farm-and-win-their-classic-book-on-my-favorite-allium/)
34. [slideshow: 10 great groundcovers to rely upon](http://awaytogarden.com/slideshow-10-great-groundcovers-to-rely-upon/)
35. [beloved conifer: Japanese umbrella pine](http://awaytogarden.com/beloved-conifer-japanese-umbrella-pine/)
36. [cucumber-growing q&a, and the best pickles ever](http://awaytogarden.com/cucumber-growing-qa-and-the-best-pickles-ever/)
37. [mulch faq’s](http://awaytogarden.com/mulch-faqs/)
38. [how trash helps me save on potting soil](http://awaytogarden.com/how-trash-helps-me-save-on-potting-soil/)
39. [overwintering rosemary, indoors and out](http://awaytogarden.com/overwintering-rosemary-indoors-and-out/)
40. [my top conifers for year-round garden beauty](http://awaytogarden.com/my-top-conifers-for-year-round-garden-beauty/)
41. [garlic harvest and curing: i did something right](http://awaytogarden.com/garlic-harvest-and-curing-i-did-something-right/)
42. [fear not! how to prune clematis](http://awaytogarden.com/fear-not-how-to-prune-clematis-with-dan-long/)
43. [tomato-growing faq’s](http://awaytogarden.com/tomato-growing-faqs/)
44. [when the normally tough peony fails to bloom](http://awaytogarden.com/when-the-normally-tough-peony-fails-to-bloom/)
45. [the oddball houseplant Bowiea volubilis](http://awaytogarden.com/bowiea-volubilis2/)
46. [hugelkultur, nature’s raised garden beds](http://awaytogarden.com/hugelkultur-raised-garden-beds/)
47. [growing a better tomato, seed to harvest](http://awaytogarden.com/growing-a-better-tomato-seed-to-harvest/)
48. [caterpillar alert: who’s eating my cabbage and broccoli?](http://awaytogarden.com/caterpillar-alert-whos-eating-my-cabbage-and-broccoli/)
49. [an easy annual poppy, Papaver somniferum](http://awaytogarden.com/an-easy-annual-poppy-papaver-somniferum/)
50. [growing fancy-leaf begonias, indoors and out](http://awaytogarden.com/growing-fancy-leaf-begonias-indoors-and-out/)
51. [brrrr! overwintering tips for tender plants](http://awaytogarden.com/brrrr-overwintering-tips-for-tender-plants/)
52. [great shrub: bottlebrush buckeye](http://awaytogarden.com/great-shrub-bottlebrush-buckeye/)
53. [pruning faq’s](http://awaytogarden.com/garden-faq/pruning-faqs/)
54. [great shrub: Fothergilla, a multi-season star](http://awaytogarden.com/great-shrub-fothergilla-a-multi-season-star/)
55. [how to grow the best-tasting tomato](http://awaytogarden.com/grow-best-tasting-tomato/)
56. [how to store garden vegetables for winter](http://awaytogarden.com/how-to-store-garden-vegetables-for-winter/)
57. [in season: easy asparagus-parmesan bake](http://awaytogarden.com/in-season-easy-asparagus-parmesan-bake/)
58. [fall planting: 21 powerhouse perennials I’d order](http://awaytogarden.com/fall-planting-21-powerhouse-perennials-id-order/)
59. [let there be sweet potatoes: how to plant them](http://awaytogarden.com/let-there-be-sweet-potatoes-how-to-plant-them/)
60. [here (finally!) come the hellebores](http://awaytogarden.com/here-finally-come-the-hellebores/)
61. [12 trees and shrubs for great fall foliage color](http://awaytogarden.com/11-trees-and-shrubs-for-great-fall-foliage-color/)
62. [voila! my first orchid reblooms](http://awaytogarden.com/voila-my-first-orchid-reblooms/)
63. [Lee Reich’s blueberry-growing how-to](http://awaytogarden.com/giveaway-lee-reichs-blueberry-growing-how-to-and-win-his-grow-fruit-naturally/)
64. [organic lawn care with Paul Tukey: crabgrass control, reducing compaction](http://awaytogarden.com/organic-lawncare-with-paul-tukey-crabgrass-control-reducing-compaction-and-more/)
65. [growing (or just eating!) heirloom dry beans](http://awaytogarden.com/growing-or-just-eating-heirloom-dry-beans/)
66. [pruning lilacs](http://awaytogarden.com/pruning-lilacs/)
67. [baked pears for breakfast, or maybe dessert](http://awaytogarden.com/baked-pears-for-breakfast-or-maybe-dessert/)
68. [everything old is new: ‘green’ posters from the WPA](http://awaytogarden.com/everything-old-is-new-green-posters-from-wpa/)
69. [great shrubs: a roundup of some favorites](http://awaytogarden.com/great-shrubs-a-roundup-of-some-favorites/)
70. [copper or purple beech, a tree worth waiting for](http://awaytogarden.com/copper-or-purple-beech-a-tree-worth-waiting-for/)
71. [radio podcasts: itunes, stitcher, stream, live](http://awaytogarden.com/radio-podcasts-itunes-stream-or-live/)
72. [a plant I’d order: Hakonechloa ‘All Gold’](http://awaytogarden.com/a-plant-id-order-hakonechloa-all-gold/)
73. [12 top composting faq’s](http://awaytogarden.com/12-top-composting-faqs/)
74. [tomato-troubles faq’s](http://awaytogarden.com/tomato-troubles-faqs/)
75. [battling mice and voles (but never with mothballs)](http://awaytogarden.com/battling-mice-voles-never-mothballs/)

Plus mulch, mulch more… LEARN ALL YOU CAN!