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## Upcoming Webinars

- February 18 - **New and promising vegetable varieties for 2026**  
Tom Kalb, NDSU Extension area specialist – horticulture
- February 25 - **The prepared consumer: From grocery aisle to emergency plan**  
Cindy Brison, University of Nebraska Extension educator

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A screenshot of a video conferencing interface, likely Zoom. The main video frame shows the 'Food to Fork' promotional graphic from the previous slide. To the right of the video frame, there is a dark overlay with the word 'Presenter' in white. The bottom of the screen shows the standard video conferencing controls: 'Video Settings', 'Microphone', 'Share Screen', and 'End Call'.

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- Please complete the short online survey that will be emailed to you after today's webinar. It will take just a couple minutes!
- Be sure to sign up for an opportunity to win a prize in the drawing. After submitting the survey, a form to fill out with your name/address will appear.



*Acknowledgement: This project was made possible with funding from the North Dakota Department of Agriculture through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Specialty Crop Block Grant program. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the USDA.*

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Feb. 11

## Planting techniques make all the difference: From tomatoes to apple trees

Don Kinzler, Extension Agent - Horticulture, NDSU Extension - Cass County



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How you plant makes all the difference!

- Tomatoes
- More Vegetables
- Potatoes
- Melons
- Strawberries
- Rhubarb
- Asparagus
- Fruit trees
- Shrub-type fruits



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**Tomatoes**

America's #1 home grown vegetable



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For homegrown transplants, Start seeds in tray, then transplant to cell packs or small pots



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Keep plants within inches of lights



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Delay planting until soil temp exceeds 55 F.



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#### "Setting out"

- Remove lower leaves
- Plant deeply, up to their "ears."



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#### Tomatoes root along buried stem

- More roots
- Less "whippy"



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## Mulch

- ✓ Wait until warm
- ✓ Use untreated straw or grass clippings



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## Planting tips for Other Vegetables



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Some are planted directly from seeds, others from transplants ("starter plants")



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- From seed
  - ✓ Radish, carrot, peas, bean, lettuce, beets, sweet corn
- From transplants
  - ✓ Tomato, pepper, cabbage family
- From seed or transplants
  - ✓ Squash, Pumpkin, cucumbers, melons



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#### Should you disturb roots of transplants?



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#### Firm soil around transplants, water

- ✓ Other than tomatoes, plant only slightly deeper



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Important part of planting technique is timing...



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*Cool crops vs. warm crops*



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*When can we start?*

- Cool season crops = April
  - ✓ Radish, onion, lettuce, spinach, peas, potato, carrot, cabbage





- Warm season crops = May 15-25
  - ✓ Tomato, pepper, eggplant, cucumber, melons, squash

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**Planting in a “hill”**

- Cucumbers
- Squash
- Pumpkins
- Melons



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**Potatoes**

- Use certified “seed potatoes”
- 3-4” deep
- Remember to “hill” plants when 8-12”



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**Melons**



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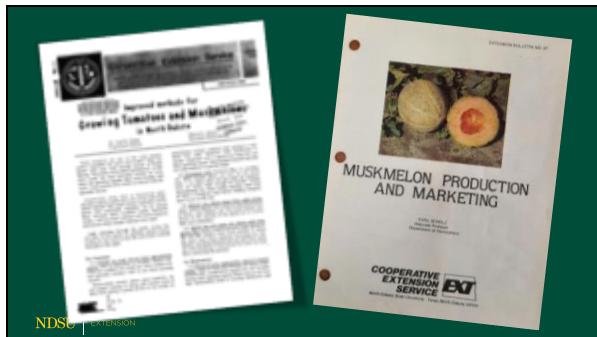
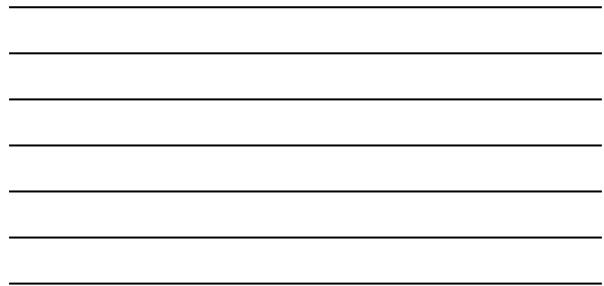
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Secure plastic, give starter fertilizer



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How does water get to the plants?

Planting hole and from sides



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## Onions

- “Sets” vs. plants
- Plants produce bigger bulbs



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**Perennial vegetables and fruits**

Where is the “crown” of a plant?




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**Strawberries**

June-bearing

- One large crop

Everbearing/Day Neutral

- Smaller crops in June and late summer



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**Two starting options**

- Bare-root: often bundles of 10-25
- Pots or packs
- Both work well



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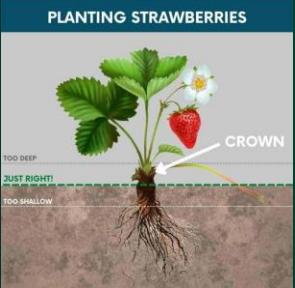
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**Planting depth is critical**

Crown should be at soil level



**PLANTING STRAWBERRIES**



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**Space 12-18" apart in rows 3-feet apart**

- Remove blossoms until July 1. (everbearing/day neutral)
- Don't allow Junebearing to fruit first year



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**Raspberries**



Two starting options; both can work fine




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### Planting

- Prune canes to 6 inches above soil line.
- 3-4 feet apart within the row




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### Asparagus – two starting options

- Bare root (preferred)
- Potted




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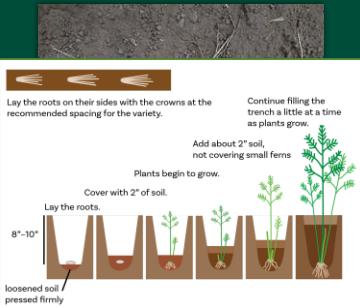
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### Planting Technique

- Dig trench 10-12" or 6-8" heavy soil
- Set soil aside
- Place plants head-to-toe, top buds are 12" apart
- Cover with 2-3" soil
- Fill in trench as they grow



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**Rhubarb**

- Plant potted anytime
- To dig and divide: Labor Day or early spring
- Can last a lifetime

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**Planting Options**

- Bare-root
- Potted




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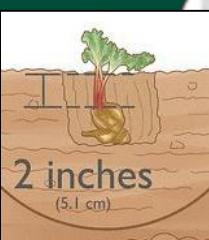
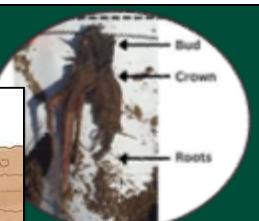
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**Planting depth**

- Find the "crown"
- Plant crown 2 inches below soil surface

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**Fruit trees**

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**Two starting options**

- Bare root
- Potted



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**Planting techniques for bare-root fruit trees**

- Locate Flare root
- Position depth so flare root just below surface



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**Graft knob visible above ground**

- Both bare root and potted



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**Planting potted trees**

- Search for flare root
- Many are too deep in pot
- Scrape away excess top soil



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**Beware circling roots**

- Cut away bottom and outer perimeter



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**Always keep roots moist!**

- Exposed roots can die in seconds
- Bare-root
- Potted while you're operating
- Plastic, mulch, etc.



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**Amend soil? No.**

- Backfill with native soil
- Water well to settle soil



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**Shrub-type fruits**

- Aronia
- Honeyberry
- Juneberry
- Elderberry
- Currant
- Gooseberry



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### Same options: bare-root and potted

- Depth is less critical
- Plant both with crown slightly deeper than soil level



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### We did it!

- Success with plants: doing seemingly small things with determination.



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### Thank you!

For more information,  
contact:

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NDSU Extension Agent,  
Cass County Horticulture

[donald.kinzler@ndsu.edu](mailto:donald.kinzler@ndsu.edu)



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