

## Acres of Seedlings by Fran Benton

I am really hoping I am not the only one who started too many seeds this spring. When it came time to pot the little beauties on there was a big problem. All the little beauties sprouted and grew. If I potted them all on I would need at least 50 big plant trays full of pots and soil. I did the math and that is 1275 pots! OMG! Way way too many seedlings! That means that I have to decide who gets to live and who goes to the compost. I feel terrible when this happens, as each little stem with its 2 tiny leaves seems like a new friend. I imagine it as a huge flower or vegetable and I just feel bad. So this leaves me apologizing to them as they go in the compost bin. It would sound like this.

Um, sorry buddy, this hurts me as much as it does you. "Well, no!" says Mr. Seedling. "I spent all this time pushing out of my seed capsule and got this nice stem and leaves, and what thanks do I get?" "Look" says me, "I really got carried away with the flinging of seed all over the tray" "I will not do it again, I promise" "Yeah, right" says Mr. Seedling, You are a bad gardener and you wasted seed. You could have fridged the remaining seed and we would have grown next year for you. You could have shared your extra seed with neighbours and friends. You could stop getting carried away and buying too many packets of seed to start with. So go ahead and put me in your compost. Maybe I'll defy the odds and grow on anyway. I'll be the big nasty Salvia that is looking out for you lady! You just watch the way you stroll past the compost. I'll be there looking for you!"

Sigh, get over it Fran, you grew too many seedlings. But wait a minute! What about the packet of expensive Russian Sage seed that I bought and one single seedling grew! Stokes likes to say "It is one of the easiest perennials to grow from seed." Yeah right! So what do I learn from this yearly battle with plants? Read the seed packet. Don't plant so many seeds. Avoid the treacherously mad Salvia in the compost!

Or you could just come to the Mill Bay Garden Club's meeting 4th Tuesday of the month 6:45 at the Mill Bay Hall.