

**Prescription for Spring Fever**  
**Rick Abrahamson**  
**Week of January 25, 2010**

Spring fever season is here and I have the prescription for you. Have you have been thinking about “getting your hands dirty”? Maybe you have been thinking about starting some seeds indoors or attending a gardening seminar. Maybe you find yourself paging through seed catalogs as they arrive in your mailbox. If this at all describes you then you might have spring fever. Follow my prescription and you should be fine until the gardening season starts.

Sowing annual flowers and vegetables using shallow flats and a good germination mix works very well. Cover the flats loosely with plastic to help hold in moisture and place in a warm area or use bottom heat. After the baby plants develop their first true leaves, transplant into larger containers. The best way to transplant babies is to use a pencil as a dibble stick, poking a hole in the media and pushing the plant into the hole. It is quick and painless to the plant. People often think these young plants need to be treated tenderly but they are tougher than they appear. Place the newly transplanted seedlings in a sunny location and keep moist but not too wet. New plants may benefit from a second transplanting depending on the species and how the plants will be used in the future.

Consider taking in one or more of the many exciting educational offerings that are available.

**Upcoming Horticultural Events**

Farmer’s Market Workshop – February 5<sup>th</sup> – Rapid City  
Gardening with the Masters – February 18<sup>th</sup> – March 11<sup>th</sup> – Rapid City  
First Annual Spring Fever Gardening Seminar – March 6<sup>th</sup> – Rapid City  
Growing with the Masters – March 18<sup>th</sup> – April 8<sup>th</sup> – Rapid City  
Master Gardener Core Training – March 25<sup>th</sup> – May 20<sup>th</sup> – Rapid City  
Horticulture/Tree Workshop – April 8<sup>th</sup> – Bison and Buffalo

Call your local county extension office for additional information about these and other educational offerings.

Don’t forget about those seed catalogs. It can be very fun and informative to just page through the catalogs looking at the photos and reading a little about the new varieties as well as the older ones. Start to plan your garden based on the information in the catalogs and place an order for new and interesting plants. Enjoy this time of the year for before we know it we will all be outside “digging in the dirt”. Right now spring fever is here and there is no vaccine to prevent it. Use the remainder of the winter to gear up for a great growing season this summer.

As always feel free to give me a call at 605-394-2188 or email to [ricky.abrahamson@sdstate.edu](mailto:ricky.abrahamson@sdstate.edu) for more information on how to combat spring fever. Be sure to check out our website at <http://www.co.pennington.sd.us/extension/extsvc.html> for up to date educational offerings and additional extension information.