



HSBC and Mastercard Presents **Love of the Land:**

Gardening At Home with Bryan Voltaggio

As a part of the exclusive HSBC Elite and Premier virtual event series, Love of the Land, HSBC and Mastercard invite you to enjoy unique, at home experiences that celebrate and support nature's beauty.

If you would like to follow along at home with Bryan's demonstration and plant your own garden, please use the below shopping list to purchase the materials needed for the experience. These products may be purchased at your favorite local retailer, or please feel free to reference the product hyperlinks¹ to Bryan's suggested products on Amazon, and use your HSBC Elite or Premier card to earn points.

GARDENING MATERIALS NEEDED:

Herbs: *Thai Basil, Cilantro, Garlic Chives*

- Bryan will be planting Thai Basil, Cilantro and Garlic Chives.
- Consider buying seeds from an outlet in your [temperate zone](#). This will set you up for the best successful seeds that grow well in your region.

Seed Starter Tray - *Amazon*

- These come in a variety of sizes, shapes and costs. Bryan suggests picking the appropriate size for the amount of seeds you would like to plant. If you plan to start your seedlings indoors, pick a tray that is outfitted with a clear lid to maintain a humid environment.

Spray Bottle - *Amazon*

- You will want to keep your seeds moist, and a fine mist is the best way to do so. Keep in mind that new sprouts are tender, so you don't want large droplets or a forceful stream which could damage young leaves.

Transfer pots - *Amazon*

- These come in a variety of sizes, shapes and costs. If you are planning to keep your herbs in a sunny window or on a balcony or patio, ideally you will want to use a pot that is 8" - 10". It is important that any pot you choose has a drainage hole (or several) at the bottom. You may want to also consider buying trays to go beneath the pots.

Potting Soil - *Amazon*

- While any good potting soil will do, Bryan also recommends [Johnny's Germination mix](#) for those who are doing container planting.

Optional: **Composting** - *Amazon*

- If you are lucky enough to have the space to compost, Bryan's tip is to start with purchased compost. This will help speed up the process to get yours going.



Please use the following sections to follow along as Bryan Voltaggio shows you how to start your at home herb garden. If you are an avid gardener, feel free to get a head start with the below.

HERB PREP WORK:

While Bryan will cover all of his best tips and tricks for planting an at home herb garden during his demonstration, if you plan to get started before the live experience, please feel free to reference his optional prep work below.

- Select a location for your seed tray**
 - Look for a sunny and warm location, but keep in mind that sprouts are fragile. Too much direct light could fry young leaves. If you do not have an area that gets good light, you may consider purchasing a grow light.
 - Avoid drafty and windy areas.
- If planting outside, select your seeds and read the instructions for grow time to determine the best date for planting.**
 - Include several days of hardening your seedlings, which is gradually exposing them to outdoor conditions. This will help strengthen them for direct sun exposure, as well as wind conditions.
- Prepping and fertilizing the soil**
 - If planting outside, you will want to prepare your soil by weeding and adding any compost or amendments as recommended for your [temperate zone](#).
 - If keeping the herbs in containers, consider calendar notes of when to feed or fertilize them.
- Purchase a seed starter kit or tray, and suggested materials above**

STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTIONS

If following along from home on the day of the event, please find the step by step instructions for Bryan's live gardening demonstration below.

- Using several applications of water, thoroughly saturate the soil pods.**
- Carefully push the seed into the pod by ¼" of an inch.**
- Make sure that the seed is covered with soil.**
- Mist the seeds every day to keep the soil moist. This is most likely once a day and best done in the morning to avoid drying out in the sunlight.**
- Seedlings will need to be hardened once you see several sets of true leaves.**
- Harden gradually, starting in the morning sun and working up to more time in midday sun.**
- Transplant seedlings to a new pot, or into the ground after hardening them for a week or so.**

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