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## March

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The official first day of spring is a bad joke to those of us on the East Coast still getting pounded by winter's fierceness. The extra sunlight, though, is good news if you are lucky enough to have a cold frame in which to start your spring greens, a structure that will protect seedlings from the desiccating effects of the wind and the night frosts.

Here are a few salad specials that don't mind the cold: arugula, mache (corn salad), endive, spinach, radicchio, kale, cress, mustard greens. Broadcast them thickly inside the frame to maximize your space; you can thin them out and eat them as the spring advances. If a really cold night is expected, throw an old blanket over the cold frame to give some added protection.

Later in the season, cold frames are an excellent spot to harden off warm weather lovers like tomatoes, peppers and basil. Speaking of tomatoes, mid to late March is a good time to get them started if you have seed, a sunny window ledge, and a few handfuls of peat moss. Don't forget to water them—peat dries out quickly, especially in the sun!