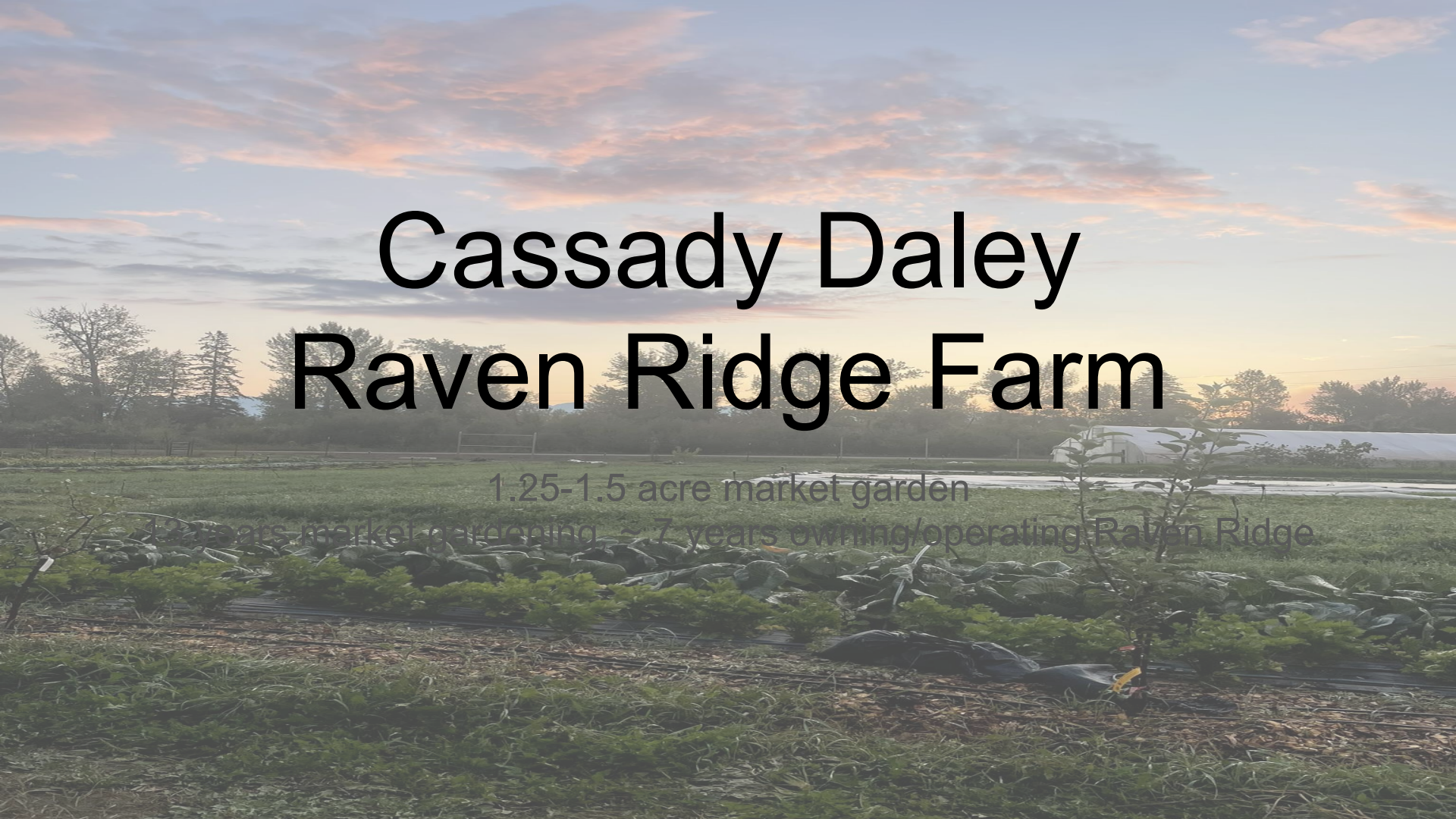


Seeding and Transplanting Basics





Cassady Daley Raven Ridge Farm

1.25-1.5 acre market garden

12 years market gardening ~ 7 years owning/operating Raven Ridge

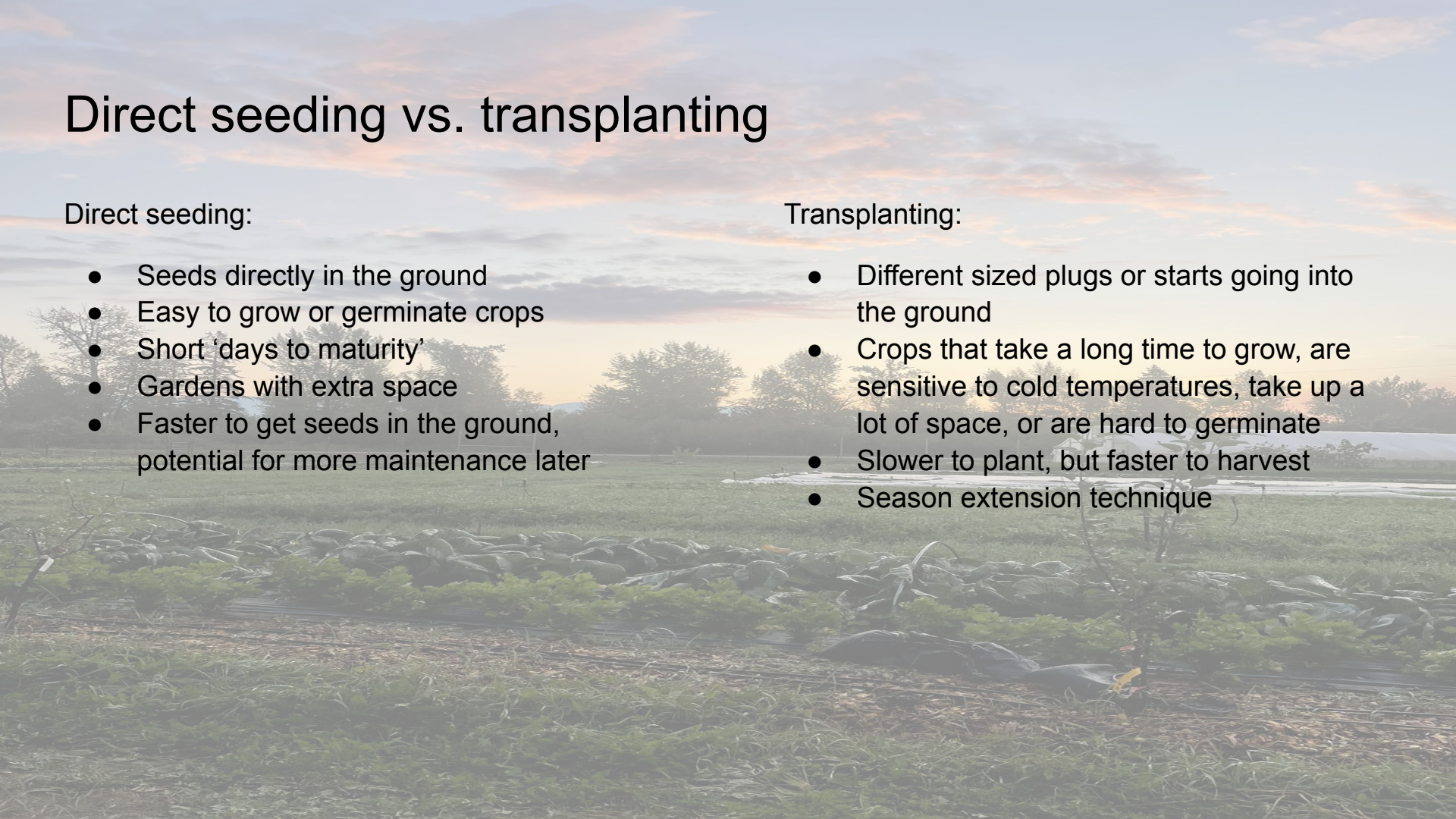
Direct seeding vs. transplanting

Direct seeding:

- Seeds directly in the ground
- Easy to grow or germinate crops
- Short 'days to maturity'
- Gardens with extra space
- Faster to get seeds in the ground, potential for more maintenance later

Transplanting:

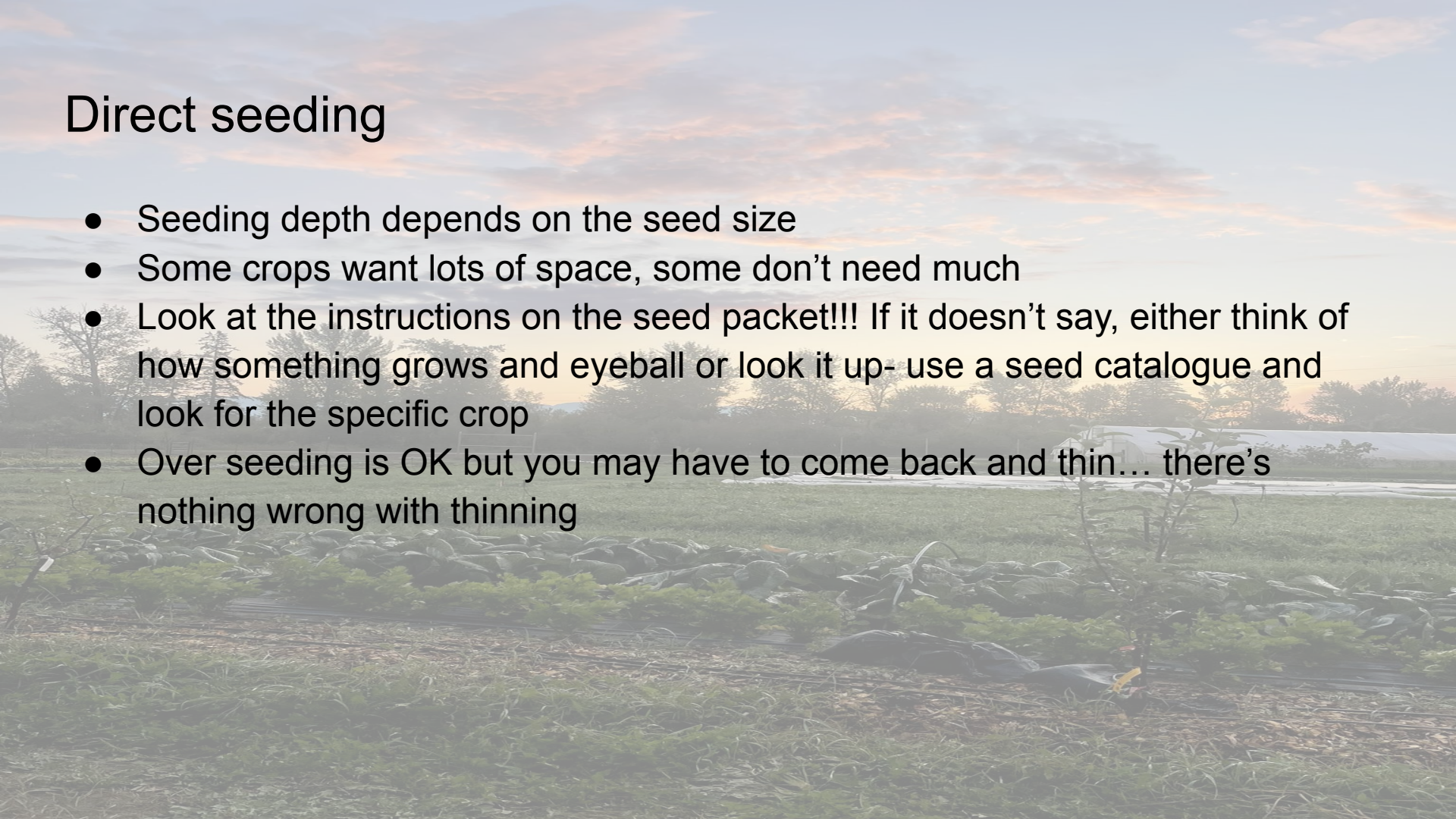
- Different sized plugs or starts going into the ground
- Crops that take a long time to grow, are sensitive to cold temperatures, take up a lot of space, or are hard to germinate
- Slower to plant, but faster to harvest
- Season extension technique





Direct seeding

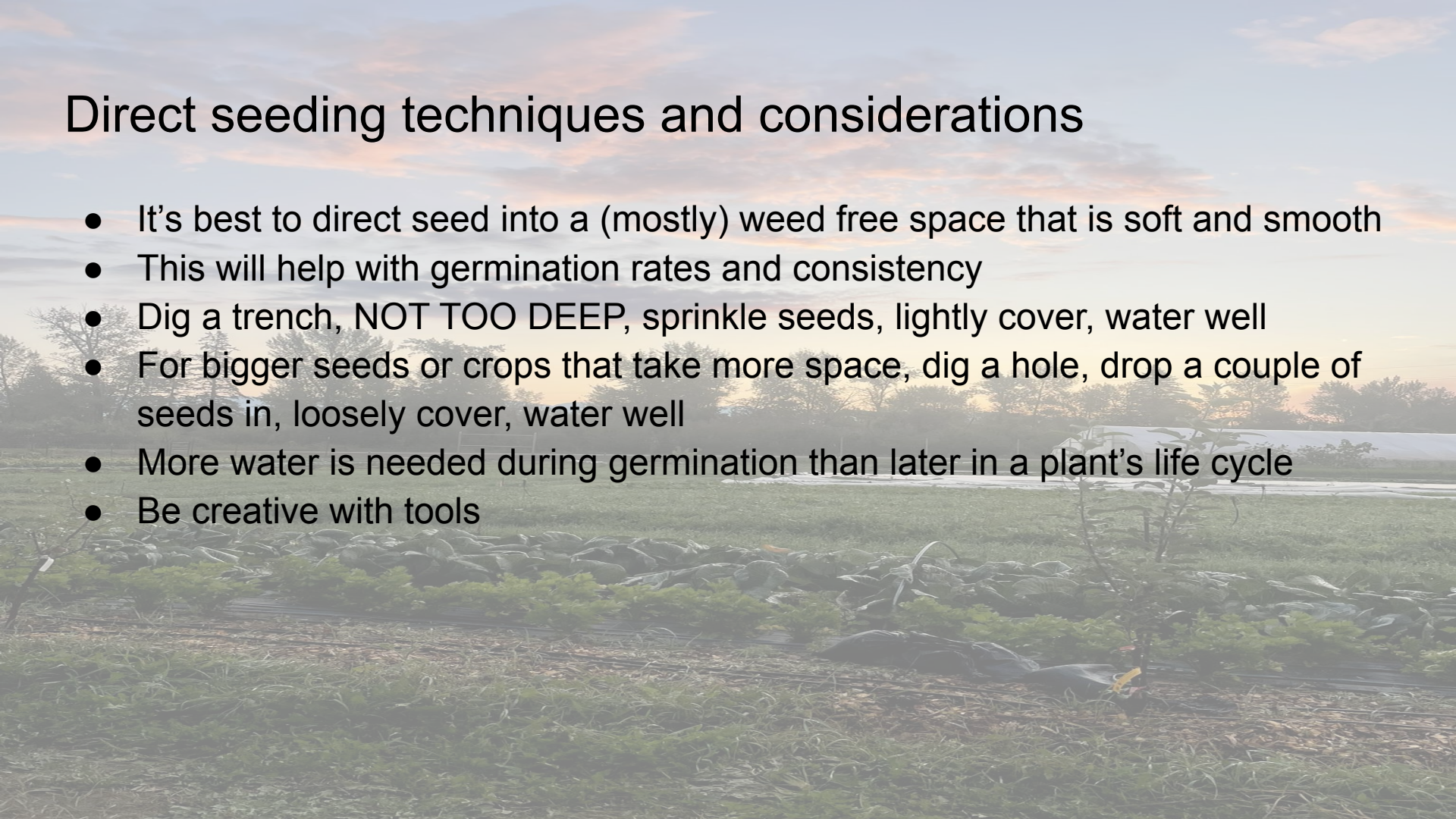
- Seeding depth depends on the seed size
- Some crops want lots of space, some don't need much
- Look at the instructions on the seed packet!!! If it doesn't say, either think of how something grows and eyeball or look it up- use a seed catalogue and look for the specific crop
- Over seeding is OK but you may have to come back and thin... there's nothing wrong with thinning





Direct seeding techniques and considerations

- It's best to direct seed into a (mostly) weed free space that is soft and smooth
- This will help with germination rates and consistency
- Dig a trench, NOT TOO DEEP, sprinkle seeds, lightly cover, water well
- For bigger seeds or crops that take more space, dig a hole, drop a couple of seeds in, loosely cover, water well
- More water is needed during germination than later in a plant's life cycle
- Be creative with tools





Transplanting

- Some summer crops grow indoors for months before being planted, think tomatoes and peppers
- Others do best with a few weeks of getting a head start but could also be direct seeded like cucumbers, squash, and corn
- Harvests can be earlier with transplanted crops
- Early frost can usually be avoided... notice that isn't all frosts, all the time... we're growing plants in Montana
- If you have a greenhouse, you can have an early planting and then have time to harvest before your summer planting
- A climate controlled environment leads to better germination *



Transplanting techniques and considerations

- Some plants want to be buried deep, some don't
- Tomatoes like being buried deep, they can grow a stronger root system this way
- Cucumbers, peppers, and squash do not want to be buried deep
- If you look closely at a pepper plant, you can see a band right above where the stem goes into the potting mix, try not to plant deeper than this line... plants are SO cool
- Cucumbers and squash have a similar banded line, just more faint
- Broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, and other brassicas seem to be mostly indifferent to depth, if you plant them deep, up to the point of growth at the top of the plant, the base may be stronger and be less likely to flop over, but harder to pull out of the ground later... we've switched to less deep planting recently



Direct seeding tools



Transplanting tools



