Winter Sowing is Easy to Do!

With this creative and easy germination method you will be able to start hardy and vigorous seedlings for pennies. Winter Sowing is done outdoors during Winter using mini-greenhouses made from recyclables; there are no heating devices, no energy wasting light set-ups or expensive seed starting devices.

Container Examples: Milk Jugs, large soda bottles, dessert-topping tubs, fast-food salad bowls, clear cake boxes, cottage cheese tubs. Tops should be clear or translucent to let in natural daylight.

Add small holes to the top for air ventilation and the base for draining excess moisture. Tops should be at least 2" above the soil to allow for seedling growth.

Label container bottoms with waterproof marker.

Use quality soil or sowing mix; minimum 3" deep.

Moisten soil, sow seeds.

Attach lids to bottoms with duct or packing tape.

Place outside, sow more containers all winter!

Keep containers moist.

Seeds germinate as weather warms, increase ventilation or remove lids after germination.

Transplant small seedlings into garden after germination, no hardening-off is needed.

What can you Winter Sow?
Here's some examples....

Annuals: alyssum, bidens, calendula, dahlia, emilia, gaillardia, helianthus, lavatera, mirabilis, nicotiana, petunia, portulaca, rudbeckia, toadflax, viola

Perennials: bellis, digitalis, echinacea, flax, gaura, grasses, heuchera, inula, lewisia, malva, nepeta, oenothera, poppy, red hot poker, salvia, yarrow

Herbs: basil, chamomile, chives, dill, hyssop, marjoram, mint, oregano, parsley, sage, thyme

Veggies: beets, broccoli, cabbage, chard, carrots, celery, hot peppers, kohlrabi, lettuce, onions, radish, strawberries, tomatoes, winter squash

You can Winter Sow: Wildflowers, Bushes, Trees, Vines, Fruits—anything that grows in a temperate climate. Some trees and shrubs may require long dormancy over a year to germinate.

WinterSown.Org
Begin your Winter Sowing experience. Your garden will never be the same again!

HTTP://WINTERSOWN.ORG
Prepare a Plastic Jug for Winter Sowing.

Needs: Clean, clear or translucent plastic jug without cap, sharp paring knife, permanent marker, duct tape, sowing medium, seeds, water.

Photo shows a prepared jug.

Press a sharp paring knife into the soft plastic by the base to make a drainage slit. Add a slit to all four sides.

Moisten soil, scatter seeds over top, then gently apply a thin layer of soil to barely cover seed. Pat soil surface to firm and, give seed good contact with most soil.

Use a small piece of duct tape to hold top to bottom.

Label the bottom of the container with duct tape and write the name with a permanent marker. Under the jug, sun rays cannot fade the ink.

Fill container to about an inch from the top with your favorite potting soil or sowing medium. Soils that contain fertilizer are acceptable, it is a mild time-release type and the fertilizer will not burn seedling roots.

Use a larger strip of tape completely around to close up container.

Use the knife to cut round the middle of the jug. Marking the jug can be helpful to beginners. Do not cut through the jug label which will work as a hinge.