

Winter Sowing – Short and Sweet Directions

- Wash your containers in hot soapy water, rinse well, and drain.
- Puncture 5-6 holes in the bottom of each container for drainage.
- Halfway or 2/3s up on the container, cut the top of the container from the bottom leaving a one inch hinge. Make sure there is enough room for 3-4 inches of soil in the bottom half.
- Add 3-4 inches of pre-moistened “soil less” potting mix to the bottom half of the container (do not use soil from the garden)
- Using a china marker or Sharpie, create a label for the seeds you are planting. This can be done on a piece of duct tape on the bottom of the container or preferably on a stick inside the container.
- Choose the right seeds. Look for seed packets with the words = hardy seeds, self-sows, needs pre-chilling, can be sown in the fall, can be direct sown early, seedlings can withstand frost, wildflower, prairie flower, weed (milkweed, butterfly weed)
- Sow the seeds inside the container. Sprinkle on top of soil and lightly tamp down to create good seed to soil contact. For larger seeds (requiring a depth of 1 inch or more), lightly sprinkle soil mix over seeds and tamp down again. Most seeds do not require soil on top as freezing and thawing will provide cover needed for the seed.
- If you are using a container with a clear lid, poke a few holes in the top to provide air circulation and tape top to bottom with duct tape. If using milk jug or soda bottle, tape top portion back to bottom with duct tape and throw away the cap.
- Take the container outside to a sunny spot where it will be protected from overturning by strong wind or curious animals.
- Wait for the green to start coming up!

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- When it is warm enough to be comfortable at night without a jacket, remove duct tape to allow wind to blow on plants.
- Transplant to garden, no hardening off required!
- Recycle your container ☺

Useful website: www.WinterSown.org



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