



Winter Seed Sowing Instructions

Step 1: Prepare Your Container

- **Choose & Clean a Container:**
 - Use a semi-transparent container that allows sunlight to pass through.
 - Milk jugs work exceptionally well—*no cap needed*.
- **Create Drainage Holes:**
 - Make at least five drainage holes in the bottom.
 - Use a box cutter, hot glue gun, or knife to carefully melt or cut the holes.
- **Cut the Container for Easy Access:**
 - Mark a cutting line about **4 inches from the bottom** or roughly **halfway up** the container.
 - Cut around the container, leaving 1.5” - 2” attached at the handle to create a hinge for easy opening and closing.

Step 2: Add Soil

- **Moisten the Soil:**
 - The soil should be damp enough to hold together when squeezed but should **not drip water**.
- **Fill the Container:**
 - Add about 3-4 inches of soil, nearly filling the bottom half.

Step 3: Choose & Sow Seeds

- **Determine Seed Quantity:**
 - To prevent overcrowding, follow these guidelines:
 - **Tiny seeds:** Sprinkle lightly and evenly (~20 per container).
 - **Small seeds:** 12-16 per container.
 - **Large seeds:** 9-10 per container.
- **Plant Seeds According to Their Needs:**
 - **Light-dependent seeds:** *Surface sow* by gently pressing seeds into the soil without covering them.
 - **Other seeds:** Plant at a depth of **1/8 inch or the width of the seed**, then cover with soil.
 - If unsure, plant extra seeds at varying depths.



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- **Water the Seeds:**
 - Lightly mist or sprinkle water over the soil.
- **Label Your Container:**
 - Write the plant name on the outside using a **UV-resistant marker** to prevent fading.

Step 4: Seal, Set Outside and Forget it

- **Close & Seal the Container:**
 - Tape **completely around** the cut section with duct tape to keep moisture in.
- **Place Outside for Winter:**
 - Choose a spot that gets winter sun and precipitation and ignore until spring! Nature will take care of the rest!

Springtime Care & Transplanting

- **Monitor Weather & Moisture:**
 - If the weather is unseasonably warm or dry, add a small amount of water from the top to prevent drying out. You can also water from the bottom by placing the container in a tray of water.
- **Open the Containers:**
 - Once seeds have germinated, remove the duct tape and open the container.
 - Keep the soil moist but avoid overwatering. If the container begins growing green growth or seems excessively wet, poke a few holes in the top to allow more water out.
 - Place seedlings in bright, indirect light or morning/evening sun for best growth.
 - Note: too much direct heat/light and not enough water can bake the seedlings. If there's hail or freezing rain, place the lids back on.
- **Transplant When Ready:**
 - Seedlings are ready to transplant once they develop two true leaves—these are fully formed leaves that resemble the mature plant.

Remember, gardening is an experiment! If something doesn't work, observe, evaluate, and try again. Each season is a learning experience, so have fun and enjoy the process! 🌱