

Start your Winter Sowing in January or February.



- 1) Use clean opaque jugs (not clear or white). Remove the top cap. Drill or punch drain holes in the bottom of jugs.



- 3) Use good potting soil (not seed starting soil). Mix the soil with water until very damp.



- 2) Cut jugs just above the bottom of the handle making a "hinged" lid.



- 4) Put several inches of wet soil in bottom of jugs. Make holes to drop seeds in. I use a #2 pencil. I usually drop 2 seeds in each hole. I make 4-5 holes if I'm planting tomatoes, cucumbers, melons, and peppers. Cover seeds with soil. If your soil isn't real moist, you can gently spritz the soil with water before step #5.



- 6) Set the planted jugs outside. The plastic jugs act as little greenhouses. The seeds will germinate when the soil is warm enough. The plants will automatically harden themselves without moving indoors/outdoors. The only time you should have to water the jugs is maybe in late Spring if they dry out. Spritz gently with water through top opening.

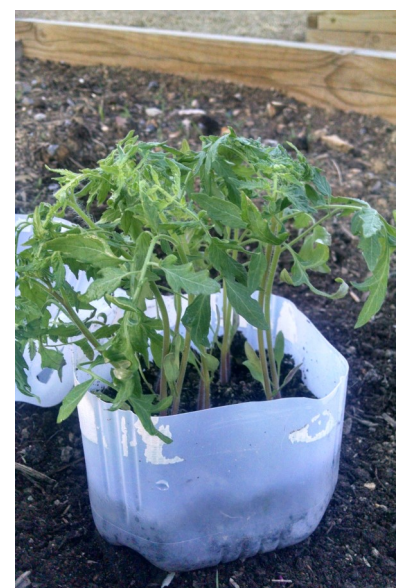


- 5) Tape the jugs back together using real Duct (Duck) tape. It holds up to the weather better than generic brands. Using a Paint Pen (available at Walmart for approx. \$2) mark the contents and the date on the jug. The paint pen holds up to the weather.



- 7) Untape/open the jugs when the plants are large enough. After a couple days of direct sunlight, gently separate the plants' root systems and replant them in the garden or your patio containers.

Enjoy the fruits of your labor!!



From Master Gardener Joyce Yost, WVU, 2014