WINTER SOWING

Presentation and Photos
by Lynn Grillo

MASTER GARDENERS
OF MERCER COUNTY

WHAT IS WINTER SOWING?

"A propagation method used throughout the winter where temperate climate seeds are sown into protective vented containers and placed outdoors to foster a naturally timed, high percentage germination of climate tolerant seedlings"

#1 ITEM REQUIRED

JUGS!

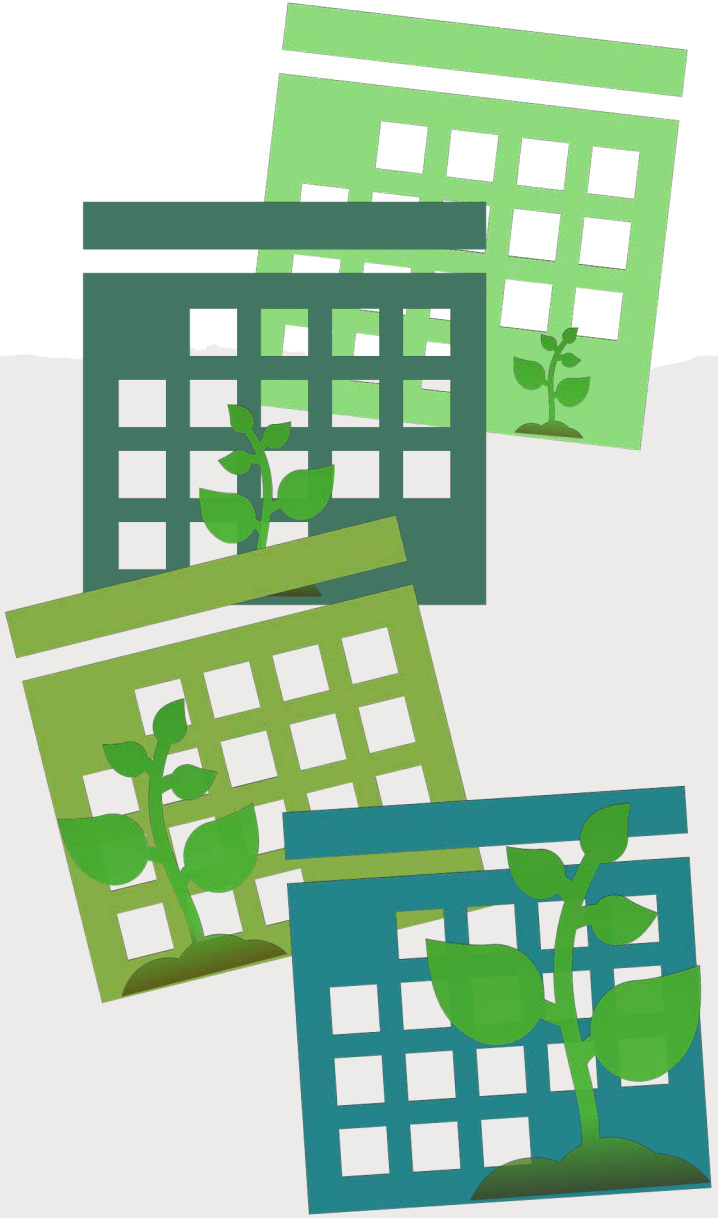
(Scavenge neighbors' recycling bins)

ITEMS NEEDED

- ✓ Plastic jugs (taller is better)
- ✓ High quality potting soil
- ✓ Box cutter/scissors
- ✓ Hole poker
- ✓ Duct tape
- ✓ Plant labels
- ✓ Weatherproof marker
- ✓ Seeds
- ✓ Water

PREP | SOW | WAIT

- Poke drainage holes in the bottom and sides
- Cut jug in half horizontally, leaving a hinge
- Fill bottom with moistened potting soil
- Add seeds (do not overseed)
- Place plant tag inside the jug
- Tape closed with duct tape



Caps off
Snuggled up

February 24, 2022

Cover seedlings in freeze

March 12, 2022

Check moisture

April 5, 2022

Transplant
April 24, 2022

May 8, 2022

June 23, 2022

TO RECAP...

- Prep & sow seeds in jugs in Jan-Feb
- Place outside in a protected area
- Check for moisture, douse if dry
- Cover seedlings in frost or freeze
- Vent lids on very hot days

WINTER SOWN PLANTS

- Purple Basil
- Lemon Basil
- Italian Basil
- Thai Basil
- Summerlong Basil
- Danvers Carrots
- Burpless Supreme Cucumber
- Marketmore Cucumber
- Straight Eight Cucumber
- Red Velvet Lettuce
- Salad Bowl Lettuce
- Bib Lettuce
- Walla Walla Onion
- Spanish Yellow Onion
- Red Welsh Onion
- Oregano
- Italian Parsley
- Fire & Ice Peppers
- Jimmy Nardello Peppers
- Zebrune Shallots
- Spinach
- Strawberry Spinach
- Honeynut Squash
- Patty Pan Squash
- Cherokee Purple Tomato
- German Pink Tomato
- Super Sweet 100 Tomato
- Sungold Tomato
- Tarragon
- Zucchini
- Alyssum
- Chamomile
- Cornflower
- Daisy
- Echinacea
- Lavender
- Lupine
- Marigold
- Verbena
- Viola
- Zinnia

SOURCES

- ***Winter Seed Sowing*** | ***Illinois Extension***
  https://extension.illinois.edu/news-releases/winter-seed-sowing
- ***Starting Seeds in Winter*** | ***PennState Extension***
  https://extension.psu.edu/starting-seeds-in-winter
- ***Winter Sowing Seeds*** | ***Missouri Extension***
  https://extension.missouri.edu/publications/ym105
- ***Winter Sowing*** | ***Maryland Extension***
  https://marylandgrows.umd.edu/2019/01/23/winter-sowing-how-i-get-a-jump-start-on-my-summer-flower-garden/
- ***Winter Seeding*** | ***New Hampshire Extension***
  https://extension.unh.edu/blog/2021/02/winter-seeding-shortcut-spring
- ***Facebook*** | ***Winter Sowing with Sheryl Mann***
  https://www.facebook.com/groups/WinterSowing.VegGardeningWithSheryl

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THANK YOU!

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