



WINTER SOWING

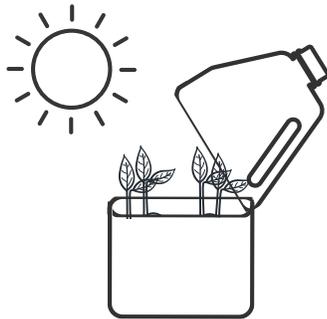


STEP 1: SOW SEEDS

Cut open a gallon plastic milk jug (or similar container that will let light pass through the plastic), leaving a hinge at the handle. Fill with organic potting soil, thoroughly wet soil with water, center one seed in each corner, and cover with the appropriate amount of soil (see seed packet details for planting depth).

STEP 2: SEAL CONTAINER & PLACE OUTDOORS

Close container and use duct tape to secure. Label bottom of container with permanent marker. Carefully poke four holes in bottom of container for drainage, discard cap, and place outdoors in a sunny location where snow and rain can fall into the cap. This should be sufficient for moisture needs at this stage.



STEP 3: WATCH & WAIT

When the weather starts to warm, check your container for signs of sprouts and to make sure the soil isn't drying out. Water if needed. Once temps reach 55°-60°F, open the container to prevent overheating and allow more sun in. Close container at night until lows are above 50°F. If a late frost is expected, consider bringing the container inside for the night.

STEP 4: TRANSPLANT TO GARDEN

When seedlings have developed a couple sets of true leaves, and temperatures are appropriate for transplanting your variety (check seed packet), you can move them to the garden.

Choose a cloudy day to minimize transplant stress. First prepare the hole, adding a scoop of compost. Use a hand shovel to carefully lift each plant from the container, being careful not to disturb roots. Plant tomatoes, peppers and eggplants extra deep, pinching off the bottom set of leaves and burying to cover. Water gently.

