

WINTER & SPRING SOWING INSTRUCTIONS

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For milk, distilled water, and similar containers, gallon sized, rinsed, toss cap.

1. Cut four ½-1” holes in the bottom of the milk jug with a utility knife. Twist knife to make a hole.
2. Cut a horizontal line with utility knife from one side of handle to the other, about 3-5” from bottom of milk jug, leaving a 1” hinge.
3. Grab handle and pull back to open container. Again, don’t cut all the way so you have a hinge.
4. Add soil to 1” from cut line.
5. Water well so soil is muddy and you see water coming out bottom.
6. Take a break to make sure water will flow out the bottom.
7. Flatten soil so there isn’t any peaks or valleys.
8. Add seeds, as many as you wish. I overs seed perennials, annuals and herbs; don’t overseed veggies.
9. Cover with enough soil, the diameter of the seed (example if seed is 1/8” in diameter, add 1/8 inch of soil). Additional soil is not needed if seeds are very tiny.
10. Lightly add more water to moisten. A spray bottle works well.
11. Add a plant label along inside container wall with name of plant, color, light requirements, and height. This label will go into the garden.
12. Close cover and duct tape in place. I use all weather duct tape.
13. Label container lid with plant name and date.
14. Remember to toss the container cap.
15. Place outside on the east, south, or west side of your house. Allow snow to pile on top and collect rain. Can put container on patio, in garden, on grass, on picnic table, on deck. Do not put under deck, awning, or roofline.

For bakery, takeout, produce, or rotisserie chicken containers:

1. Follow same instructions as milk containers except add holes at top of the container.
2. Add as much soil as you can.
3. Place plant label inside on its side.
4. No need to tape unless the container won’t stay closed.
5. Label container top.

Hints

1. Plant perennials in January, February and March
2. Plant annuals, herbs, and vegetables April 1-20.
3. After late April, they can be direct sown in the ground
4. Most Aprils are wet, so you won’t have to water until early May.
5. Watch containers for drying and water if necessary with hose attachment on mist. Be gentle with small seedlings.
6. If you wish, as weather warms up, open containers during the day, and close at night if temps are too cool or below freezing.
7. Bring your tender plants (what you sowed in April) indoors or in your garage if temps are at or below freezing. Perennials can remain outside. They can take the cold.
8. On hot spring days, you might want to move your containers to receive less sun (east side of home) so they don’t completely dry out.
9. Can cut off lid when weather warms up, usually after May 15.
10. Wait for mature roots before dividing.
11. For additional help on winter sowing, there’s a lot of information on line.