

Step by Step Technique for Winter Sowing in Milk Jugs

Compiled by Martha Moss from experience at the
Snetsinger Butterfly Garden: snetsingerbutterflygarden.org

1. With cap still on, if possible, turn jug upside down and make 1/4 inch drainage holes in the bottom of the jug, using a small awl, sharp screwdriver, or even a drill.
2. Throw away the cap. Draw a guide line for cutting at four inches up from the bottom. Leave an inch or so for a hinge **opposite** the handle of the jug. Make two vertical marks where your scissors should stop.
3. First use your awl to puncture the jug somewhere on the line, as a starting place for your scissors, then cut around the jug, remembering to stop where you have marked it with the short vertical lines.
4. Fill the jug with seed-starting medium. This should be damp, but not dripping. There should **not** be any fertilizer, as it could burn delicate roots. Seeds have all the nutrition the seedling will need to get started.
5. Plant your seeds! Pay attention to the depth needed. For large seeds, cover well. For some seeds, light is needed for germination, so just lay them on top.
6. Write name of plant on label and place inside jug.
7. Seal around the cut edges of the jug, using clear high-quality packing tape. This should be a tight seal, so that air will not get in at the sides. This is necessary to create the mini-greenhouse effect.
8. Put your jugs outside for the winter. Do not pay them any attention until the warm days of spring, when you could add water if needed. On very warm days, you can open the jugs, so the plants do not cook! You can then just close loosely at night without resealing.
9. Plant them when ready in the spring garden and enjoy! There is no need to separate them, unless too close together. No hardening off necessary!



Above: *Verbena hastata* with
silver-spotted skipper

Below: *Monarda didyma* with
approaching bumblebee

Bottom: The best Monarch butterfly
magnet— *Liatris ligulistylis*

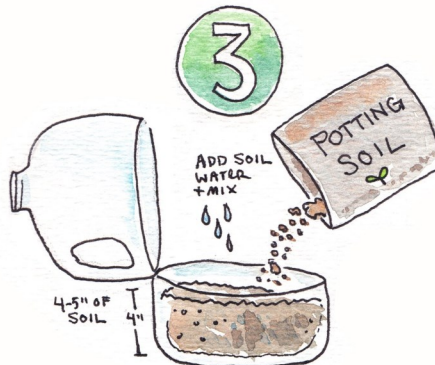
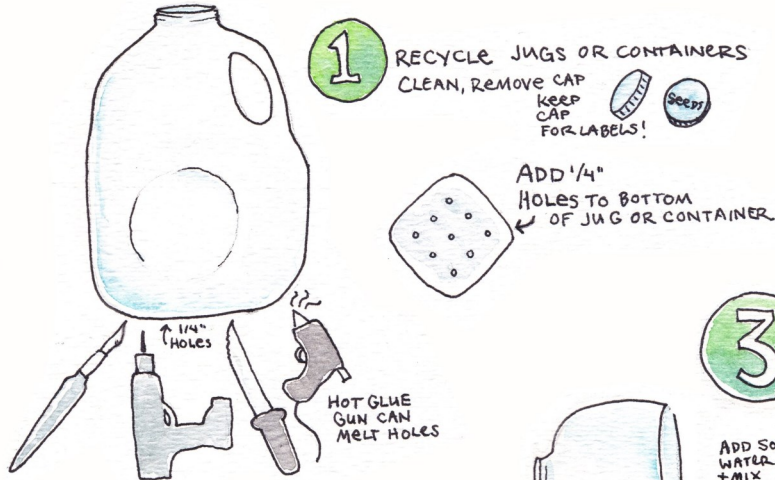
Photos by Martha Bunim Moss





WINTER SOWING

- vegetable seeds
- native plant seeds
- GOOD FOR STRATIFICATION



KEEP SOIL MOIST

