

# Directions for Sowing a Winter Garden

*The recycled container provides your seeds with the right conditions to grow (germinate).*

## Materials:

- Winter Sowing Container (Check your recycle bin for a container to use - milk jug, vinegar jug, soda bottle, or any clear closable container)
- Annual seeds (choose seeds that are labeled "cold hardy" or "withstands frost")
- Potting soil
- Scissors or X-acto knife
- Screwdriver or nail for poking holes in bottom
- A plastic stick to write on and place in the handle of the container
- sharpie
- Duct tape

## Directions for Planting a Winter Sowing Container:

1. Gather the items needed to create your planter.
2. About five inches from the bottom, cut your container so that you can fold back the top.
3. Fill the bottom part of your container with three inches of damp potting soil. Be sure to moisten the soil before using. When you squeeze the soil, it should hold its shape but not be dripping wet.
4. Check the package on your seeds for details on how deep to plant. You will likely be dividing the plants in the spring so feel free to plant densely.
5. After planting, spray the surface with water so the top 1" or so of soil is quite damp.
6. Using plastic plant markers, clearly label with the name of seeds.
7. Close the container and tape it closed. Be sure to not leave any gaps, in order to keep the heat inside.
8. To trap the moisture in your container, leave the plastic cap on your container until the seeds germinate.
9. Keep the container closed outside from December to March.
10. Once the seeds germinate, remove the plastic lid to allow for rain to get in. This will also allow the warm air to circulate out. Allow them to grow strong in the sunshine and rain.

## Helpful video on Winter Sowing:

Milk Jug Greenhouses from Michigan State University's Tollgate Farm  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vxALmqoXlbU&feature=youtu.be>

