

Wintersown Method

Whiling away the winter and dreaming of Spring? Scouring the seed catalogs that arrive in your mailbox in January and planning the perfect garden? Winter sowing involves planting seeds during the dead of winter in covered containers. They are then stored outdoors, allowing the seeds to experience the chill of winter...ice, snow, rain and all. When the temperature warms enough, the seeds germinate and start to grow. By the time the soil in the planting beds has warmed, the seedlings are ready to transplant out.





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Master Gardeners of Greene County

Visit us on Facebook





Master Gardeners of Greene County

Our Mission:

“To provide horticultural information and training to the gardening public based on proven research specific to the local climate, soils and plants, consistent with the “Policies and Procedures for the Missouri Master Gardener Program.”



"Helping Others Learn To Grow"

Master Gardeners of Greene County Provide:

- ⑩ Training for New Master Gardeners (call 417 881-8909)
- ⑩ Lawn and Garden Show in February
- ⑩ Potting Shed University and Learn to Grow in the Garden Series
- ⑩ Demonstration Gardens (Xeriscape, Nathanael Greene)
- ⑩ Master Gardener Hotline
- ⑩ Speakers Bureau
- ⑩ Young Sprouts in the Garden
- ⑩ Annual Plant Sale in April



Greene County Plant Hardiness Zone 6B



www.planthardiness.ars.usda.gov



Wintersown Method

Benefits over direct sowing and sowing
indoor sowing



Wintersown Method

When to Start

Winter Solstice December 21st

Until????



Wintersown Method

Containers



Wintersown Method

Soil

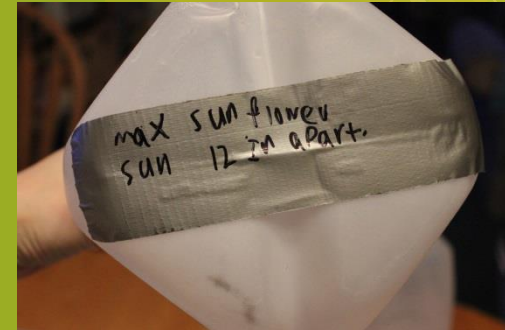
Select the Right Soil. It is essential to use a light, fluffy, well-draining soil mixture. A commercial peat-moss and perlite mix is fine. Pour the soil, preferably to a depth of 4 to 6 inches, into the bottom half of your container.

Water the Soil. Moisten the mix thoroughly, and then let it drain.



Wintersown Method

Labeling your containers



Wintersown Method

Thumb rule



Wintersown Method

How deep to I plant seeds?

I sow my seeds twice as deep as the seed's smallest dimension.

As examples:

Foxglove seeds are the size of dust so just pat them into the soil surface.

Marigolds may be a 1/2 inch long but they're quite narrow and flat so sow them just under the soil surface.

A bachelor button seed is maybe a 1/16 of an inch wide so sow them an 1/8th inch under the soil surface.

A coneflower seed....sow that about a 1/4 inch under the soil.

A pea or a corn seed is getting bigger. That's about a 1/4 inch across so sow that about a half inch down.



Wintersown Method

What can I winter sow?

Reseeds or Reseeding

Wildflower

Will Colonize

Self-Sown

Hardy, Hardy Seeds

Can be direct sown early.

Seedlings can withstand frost.

Sow outdoors in late autumn or early winter.

Sow outdoors in early spring while nights are still cold or cool.

Sow outdoors in late winter.

Sow outdoors in early spring while nights are still cold or cool.

Sow outdoors in early spring while frosts may still occur.

Name includes 'weed', like butterfly weed, joe pye weed, jewel weed, milkweed.

Needs pre-chilling, freeze seeds, refrigerate seeds, stratify for x amount of days.

Stratify, Needs Stratification



Wintersown Method

Herbs

Calendula

Viola

Flax

Basil

Mint

Oregano

Parsley

Sage

Thyme

Dill

Hyssop

Marjoram

Chamomile

Chives

Yarrow



Wintersown Method

Early Bloomers

Aster

Cornflowers

Cranesbill

Dianthus

Golden Marguerite

Hollyhock

Lettuce and Leafy Greens

Poppies

Shasta Daisy

Yarrow



Wintersown Method

Vegetables

Allium family (onions, shallots, garlic, chives)

Beans

Beets

Brassica family (cabbage, broccoli, kale, collards, etc)

Carrots

Celery

Celeriac

Chards

Corn (select an "early" type as it can germinate at lower temps)

Curcubit family (cukes, squash, pumpkins, melons, gourds)

Herbs (edible and ornamental)

Leafy Greens

Lettuces

Nightshade family (eggplant, tomatoes, peppers, potatoes - from real seeds....not "seed potatoes" ;-)

Oriental veggies

Parsnip

Peas

Radishes

Spinach



Wintersown Method

Tomatoes

Very Early: 54 days or less

Early: 55-69 days

Mid-Season: 70-84 days

Late Season: 85 or more



Wintersown Method

Flowers

Hardy annuals and perennials

What about tender plants?



Wintersown Method

Let nature takes its course!

Keep containers out in the elements. They should have snow piled on them and get rain.

But watch for pests like wind and wild animals! Keep them in a secure place.



Wintersown Method

**When it starts
warming up outside.....**

This is the time to start opening
up containers, making vents
bigger etc.

Water your containers

Soil should be the color of
brownie batter.



Wintersown Method

When to transplant



Wintersown Method

Is failure possible?



References online

wintersown.org

gardenweb.com





To plant a
GARDEN
is to believe in
TOMORROW



- Audrey Hepburn

www.mggreene.org

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MU Extension
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THANK YOU!

