

Winter Sowing

An easy, eco-friendly way to start seeds outdoors! Seeds that require cold stratification are planted in recycled containers, which act as mini greenhouses during winter. They naturally experience the cold and germinate in spring, producing strong, resilient seedlings ready to thrive in local conditions.



STEP 1

Prepare the seeds and ensure they are not moldy or empty. Some seeds with harder shells require pre-soaking.



STEP 2

Provide clean containers, remove caps, cut containers in the middle and drill holes on the bottom for drainage.



STEP 3

Add moist seed-starting mix to each container, filling it to just below the halfway mark (about 3-4 inches deep). Use an organic potting mix that's light and airy, yet able to retain moisture.



STEP 4

Sow the seeds and lightly cover with soil. Ensure the soil is moist.

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STEP 5

Tape containers closed and label with date and species type.

STEP 6

Place outside in a location, protected from strong winds. Seeds will break dormancy and germinate when temperatures rise in the spring.



STEP 7

After sprouting, open the top for more light and keep the soil moist.

STEP 8

Thin seedlings, then transplant them into pots once they have at least one set of true leaves and the risk of frost has passed. Some species can be planted directly into the garden.



STEP 9

Transplant into the garden and water consistently for the first few weeks. Depending on the species and size of seedlings, planting can occur from June to October, but it is best to avoid the peak summer heat.

STEP 10

Welcome the pollinators who bring your garden and habitat to life.

