



Winter Sowing Workshop

Jan 6, 2024

Agenda

1. Arrive, welcome, and introductions
2. Overview of Winter Sowing
3. Winter sowing Vegetables
4. Gear's list: Powerhouse plants - by Freddie Gilliespie
5. Materials and Supplies
6. Project steps
7. What to do next
8. Resources to Learn more
9. Closing



Overview of Winter Sowing

Winter sowing is a method of starting plants outside during the winter months.

Winter sowing is a way to provide a protected environment for seeds to germinate and grow.



Why are we planting in the jugs?

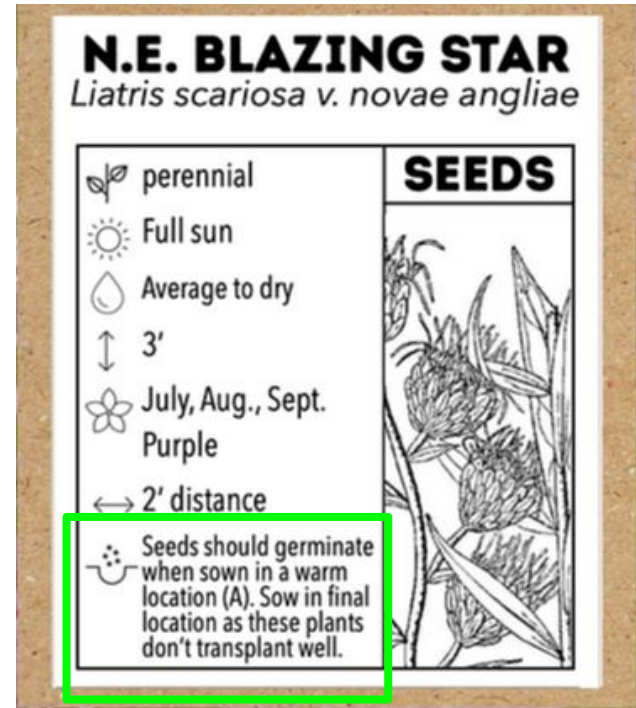
The jugs provide protection for the seedlings while still exposing the seeds to the cold and wet weather.

Plants that are winter sowed do not require “Hardening” in the spring because they are used to the weather.



Germination codes

- Some native plants require stratification - exposure to cold weather to propagate. The seeds will not sprout unless they are exposed to the elements.
- Seed packages will list a code of “C-30” for seeds that need 30 days of cold weather, you may also see “C-60”, “C-90” or “C-120.”
- Other codes you may see on seed packets are “A” ready to sow - no stratification required “D” sow on the Surface, “I” requires an inoculant.



Winter sowing vegetables

- Get your cold-hardy vegetables started early
 - Broccoli
 - Kale
 - Lettuce
- Don't need to harden them before planting outside



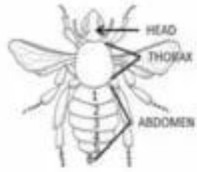
Powerhouse Plants:

- Dr. Robert Gegear, professor at UMass Dartmouth
- Research on bumblebees
- Focus on at-risk, endangered species
- Shares plant list of “powerhouse” plants
- Planting below 1000 ft. select plants for *B. fervidus* and *B. vagans*.
 - Watertown is 36’ elevation
- Choosing plants to support endangered bumblebees, but common bees and pollinators benefit also!

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Parts of a bee



BUMBLEBEE SPECIES IN MASSACHUSETTS (WORKERS)



Bumblebee



Honeybee



Carpenter bee















Wasp

Amount of black on abdomen?

More than half

About Half

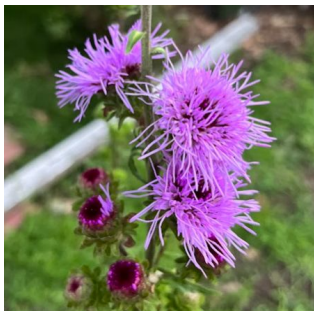
Less than half

Short tongue		 <i>Bombus affinis</i>	 <i>Bombus terricola</i>	 <i>Bombus ternarius</i>	
Med tongue	 <i>Bombus impatiens</i>	 <i>Bombus griseocollis</i>	 <i>Bombus perplexus</i>	 <i>Bombus perplexus</i>	
Long tongue	 <i>Bombus bimaculatus</i>	 <i>Bombus vagans</i>	 <i>Bombus pensylvanicus</i>	 <i>Bombus fervidus</i>	 <i>Bombus borealis</i>

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Plants we have today



Blazing star



Wild bergamot



Joe Pye weeds



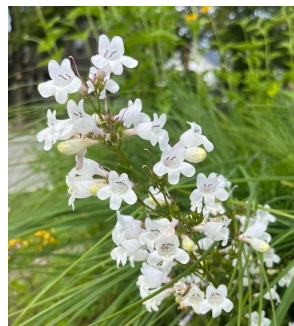
Milkweed(s)



Canada milk vetch



Hairy beardtongue



Foxglove beardtongue

Materials & Supplies

- Translucent/transparent plastic jug
- Potting soil (not seed-starting soil)
- Seeds
- Scissors or boxcutter
- Drill or soldering iron
- Marker/Paint Pen
- Plant labels
- Tape
- Water



Project Steps :

1. Collect Translucent Jugs
2. Wash out Jugs
3. Add Drainage holes
4. Cut jug - almost in half leaving a section to use as a hinge
5. Fill the jug with 4 inches of soil
6. plant the seeds
7. Seal the jug with tape
8. Set the jugs outside
9. Monitor the dampness level and water when needed
10. Transplant the plants into your garden



What to do next:

You need to find a place to set your jugs where they get minimal sun, you don't want to let the jugs get too warm.

The jugs should NOT be under an overhang they need to be exposed to rain and snow.

The jugs should be raised - even if on cinder blocks this allows for drainage.



In the spring

In the spring, after the danger of frost is over, you should untape the plants access to the sun and breezes. If a cold night is predicted close them up again.

For most plants when the second set of “Real” leaves have shown up it is time to transplant.

Some plants “Sleep in” you may not see sprouts until summer.



Resources

<https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/2021-12/>

<https://www.nurturenativenature.com/post/native-plant-winter-sowing-faqs>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=U_8Bamd630U



Upcoming Events

- Monthly Watertown Pollinator Pathways meetings
 - January 11, and every 2nd Thursday on Zoom
- WCG Annual Meeting
 - February 6 at Watertown Library
- Growing from kitchen scraps workshop
 - February 10 at First Parish of Watertown
- Planting a pollinator garden presentation
 - February 28 on Zoom
- Plant cage building workshop
 - March 4 at Hatch Makerspace



Closing

Thank you for doing your part to Support our native pollinators and Boost Biodiversity!

What are your thoughts?

Suggestions?

Comments?

Email us: info@watertowngardens.org

