

Winter Sowing

- Cindy Julian

Welcome to Winter Sowing!

Looking forward to my second season of winter sowing!

There is not a perfect science to winter sowing- what I did last year was to just get started, and I was amazed at what I ended up with!

I would encourage everyone to read as much as possible, collect your containers, potting soil, duct tape and labels and get out your seeds!



With the warm temperatures, I just put out my first containers this week. I start in January with perennials, this year I used many seeds I had collected, so hoping for the best. Good candidates are seeds that on the seed packet say "cold stratification", "self sowing", "direct sow outside in fall or spring" but I winter sow all my perennials end of January/early February. This year I have started: Coneflower, Balloon flower, mountain mint, meadow rue, stokes aster, calamint, and monarda so far.

In mid-February, I will sow hardy annuals and herbs. Cold hardy annuals include allysum, snapdragon, calendula, celosia, cosmos, dianthus, lupine, petunia, and dahlia as some I have had success with and there are many more in our zone. Herbs for me will include cilantro, basil and parsley. Cool weather vegetables that have worked well for me include arugula, kale, cabbage, cauliflower, and spinach. I am also going to try self-bunching onion seeds.

I will continue to start seeds for peppers and tomatoes indoors, starting my pepper seeds the end of February so the plants are a good size for our May plant sale. I will also start some annual seeds indoors in case my winter sown containers are not a success.

I would encourage everyone to give it a try! Good links on our website. Start small, if you wish and see what happens! The results may just surprise you!

If you would like to be part of my email group for winter sowing and seed starting, just send me an email. juliancindy@hotmail.com

Great way to share information in the group!

Looking forward to sunshine!