

Seed Starting in Milkjugs

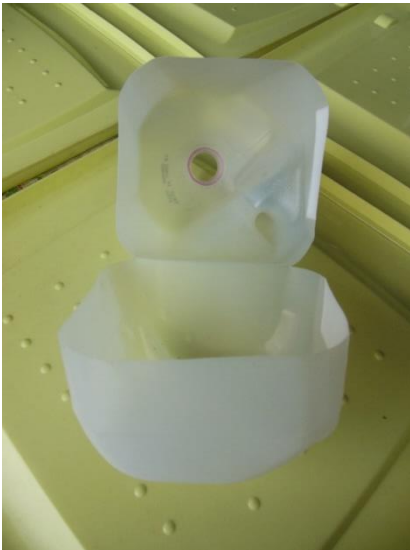
Many perennial seeds need to be stratified by the cold weather of winter. The cold weather stimulates germination of the seeds for many perennial plants. You can spread seeds directly in the ground in the Fall or you can plant them in milkjugs that you will heel into your garden for the cold winter. NOTE: When I took these pictures, I was planting Echinacea seeds- coneflowers. I did not find that they germinated well for me. I generally plant various milkweed seeds and try all sorts of seeds to see what will germinate. Have fun trying your favorite seeds.



Opaque plastic jugs



Drill holes in the bottom for drainage



Cut the jug open on 3 sides to hinge open.



Add soil half way up.



Water Soil Well.



Sprinkle seeds on top of the wet soil.



Cover seeds with a light covering of soil.



Insert a PLANT LABEL so you will know what grows.



Use Duct Tape for close the jug around the middle.

No cap on jug. Take the jug to your garden and pull back the soil so you can snug your jug down in the soil for the winter. The cold winter will stratify the seeds to germinate/emerge in the spring. Then carefully take apart the tiny plants and transplant them into pots to continue growing before planting them in the ground.

Have FUN! Jane Shull, Perry County Master Gardener, revised Fall 2022