When and how do I transplant my seedlings?

Once seedlings are about 2 inches tall and have a root system, they can be transplanted into your garden.

Place seedlings in your garden according to the conditions that are right for that plant.

You might need to give your winter sown seedlings a little more attention after they've been planted to make sure they are getting enough water.



References:

Will, M.J. (2023, January 2). *How to winter sow seeds & recommended sowing schedule*. Empress of Dirt. https://empressofdirt.net/winter-sowing/

Lamp'l, J. (2019, November 19). 130-*Winter sowing: a simple way to successfully start seeds outdoors*. Joe Gardener. https://joegardener.com/podcast/130-winter-sowing/

How to Winter Sow

What is winter sowing?

An outdoor germination method that mimics what happens naturally outdoors but protects seeds and seedlings from pests and hungry critters. Using milk jugs acts as a mini greenhouse and allows seeds to acclimate to outdoor conditions to produce hardier plants.

When can I winter sow?

Native Plants that require stratification: mid-December to late January

Examples: black-eyed Susans, butterfly weed, common milkweed, yellow coneflower

Cold Hardy/Frost Tolerant Plants, natives that don't require stratification: mid-February to mid-March

Examples: alyssum, beets, broccoli, cilantro, parsley, peas

Tender Annuals: Early March to late April

Examples: Cucumbers, melon, squash, eggplants, peppers, tomatoes, basil, nasturtium



Supplies needed:

1. Gallon milk jug
2. Soil (enough regular potting or container soil to fill the container about 4 inches)
3. Seeds
4. Something to puncture holes into milk jug
5. Duct tape
6. Garden marker
7. Spray bottle with water

Steps:

1. Make several holes at the top and bottom of the milk jug for drainage and air.
2. Cut around the middle of the container, about 5-6 inches from the bottom of the container but don't cut all the way around. Leave about an inch to act as a hinge.
3. Place about 4 inches of soil in the bottom of the milk jug. Moisten your soil.
4. Sprinkle seeds on top and water gently with a spray bottle.
5. Tape the lid into place with duct tape.
6. Label the container with garden marker.
7. Place jug outside in a sunny spot but protected from strong winds.
8. Check periodically to make sure there is adequate moisture and drainage.
9. Once seedlings begin to develop and temperatures are above freezing at night, you can take off the lids during the day or create more ventilation holes.