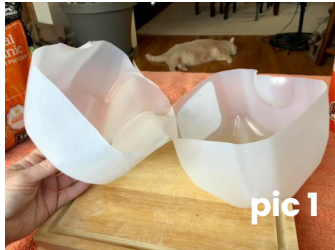


Winter Sowing

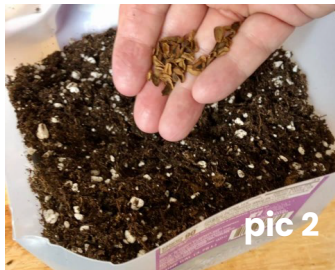
DIY Milk Jug Greenhouses

Growing native plants in mini greenhouses using transparent milk jugs (or another similar plastic container) is easy and effective. This method emulates the cold winter conditions many plants need to germinate and also protects them from predators.



Materials needed:

transparent plastic milk jug, scissors/box cutter, duct tape, potting soil, sharpie, popsicle sticks (optional)



Directions:

1. Cut jug almost in half leaving a hinge by the handle. (pic 1)
2. Poke some holes in the bottom for drainage.
3. Fill jug with a few inches of potting soil and sprinkle some seeds on top. (pic 2)
4. Cover with a small layer of potting soil and water lightly.
5. Write the plant name on a popsicle stick and put in the jug on the inside edge. **This step is optional but recommended because the plant name can fade off the outside!**
6. Close and tape shut around the area that was cut. (pic 3)
7. Write the name of the plant on the outside of the jug.
8. Remove the jug cap – you won't need it. The opening lets in rain, snow, and air.



January



Place your mini greenhouse outside and let nature do its thing!

April



You'll see plants starting to grow. Don't open the container yet and remember to leave them outside!

May



Your plants are ready to transplant. Open the container, divide them, and plant them in the ground.

Native Plant Primer

The basics about native plants.

What is a native plant?

The term native plant refers to any species that is indigenous to our region and has evolved in our local climate and soil conditions.

Why native plants are so *buzz* worthy:

Since they evolved here they require less water and fertilizer to grow than nonnative garden varieties.

Many are perennials and will come back year after year.

They provide habitat and food for local pollinators. Without these plants many species of butterfly would disappear!

They develop strong root systems that help soak up excess stormwater after weather events.

Since they are locals to the region they prefer our soil conditions. Yes, even the clay soil!



*Pink: Swamp Milkweed
Red: Cardinal Flower*

Get to know some of the locals!

These plants are common natives to Northeast Ohio and serve as important sources of nectar for many pollinators especially butterflies and bees.



Lanceleaf Coreopsis



Purple Coneflower



Black-Eyed Susan