

Winter Seed Starting

with milk jugs

Winter may not seem like the best time for growing, but it's actually a great time to start your seeds! This craft is best for January/ February so your seeds will be ready for spring planting.

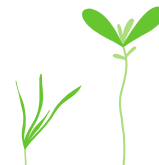
Materials

- milk jug
- drill or hot glue gun
- soil
- seeds
- water
- duct tape
- utility/craft knife or strong scissors



Instructions

1. Wash milk jug and remove the cap.
2. Using a drill to drill holes, or a hot glue gun to melt holes, create 6 holes in the bottom of the milk jug for drainage.
3. Using sharp scissors or a utility knife, cut the top half of the jug, but leave the side with the handle attached. The top half should be able to open and close while staying latched with one side.
4. Fill bottom half with about 2-3 inches of wet soil.
5. Add seeds to the soil following the directions on the seed packet.
6. Use duct tape to connect the top and bottom of the jug together tightly.
7. January: start with your jug inside in a sunny window, provide water often. In February, move your jug outside and let the sun do its magic. Set your jug outside in a sunny place.
8. Keep the tape sealed and keep the cap removed. Water and snow will enter through this top opening and water your seeds.
9. Once spring arrives, remove the tape and transplant your seeds to your garden or a pot! You can also leave your seeds in the jug to grow without the top half attached and care for like a regular plant too.



MILK JUG GREENHOUSE OBSERVATIONS

Observe your seeds in your milk jug greenhouse. Watch them germinate and grow. Log your observations from planting in the milk jug this winter to transplanting them in the spring.

WRITE WHAT YOU SEE!

DRAW

DAY 1		
DAY 2		
DAY 3		
DAY 4		
DAY 5		
DAY 6		
DAY 7		
WEEK 3		
WEEK 5		
TRANSPLANT DAY		

What do you see? How does your bean look different today? Does it have new parts? Is it taller? Is it wider? Is there new color? Can you label any of the new parts? Is your bean growing faster or slower than your classmates?