

has a lot of

advantages so what do dormancy and stratification have to do with winter sowing well like I said uh there's a lot of different types of plant seeds native plant seeds trees shrubs uh other perennials they can sometimes be challenging to germinate and they often have their own internal cues their own internal physical um and external dormancy breaking requirements so this winter sowing method removes those obstacles and allows them to do um what we can't which is mimic the environment that they would germinate in

naturally so what kind of plants can you winter sew for the most part it's going to be perennials anything that's colonizing reseed itself hearty annuals Frost hearty uh anything that says you can fall or winter sew shrubs those are that's another big one any seeds requiring any kind of stratification um cool seasoned vegetables you can also start this way warm seasoned vegetables and other annuals can be sewn using this method but it's not considered winter sowing and you're going to want to wait a little later into February and March for our Zone in order to do that uh you should not try to Winter sew Tropicals that's not going to work you're not going to have much luck with that and always try to choose your seeds that are going to thrive in our zone so you know that's maybe only hearty and so n or 10 isn't going to work here so why should I winter SE it's super easy the cost is minimal um basically if you have milk jugs or if you're like me and you go through 50 gallons of vinegar a month and milk then you're going to have plenty of jugs and the only thing you're going to need to buy is your potty mix and of course your seeds unless you can also get seeds from maybe somebody that's saving them uh you can choose a variety Rec containers milk jugs 2 L take out containers uh you don't have to use grow lights there's no extra space needed in your house for this or garage it's not going to be you're not going to be tripping over them all the time and you don't have to harden off your seedlings a lot of people when they first start gardening will get them going and then they you know then they forget that hardening off process and they plant them out and they don't Thrive because the plant is not used to being outside these seeds are born outside stay outside they're ready to plant and there's no damp off I don't know if any of you have ever started seeds inside and they die at the soil line that's a fungus that eats right there at the soil line and it kills them and they they die off you don't have that with Winter

s so what do you need to get started basically a container like the ones on your tables that will hold three to four inches of potting mix it's got to have a clear lid you don't want to

anything that is not transparent because you want the sunlight to get in there um scissors or box cutter a drill which is optional but you need something to poke holes in the bottom of it for drainage Sharpie to outline a new mugs label because they all look alike when they come up in the screen and then you've got 50 jugs of little grass things that you're like I have no idea Who's Who and then you probably won't for a couple years because they they're not going to balloon probably year so you got you're like I have no idea that these are cone flour asers I have no idea so you got a label moistened potting mix and your seeds so what do you do well first thing you're going to want to do is before you cut your jug you're going to drill holes in the bottom this is

Protec you're going to want to do three or four of those in the good size hole I use a big drill so I don't have to do 15 little holes I use just three or four of these big holes and

then and then you're going to cut 3/4s of the way around your jug and if you've got the smaller jugs it works the same way the VIN as well what I usually do is I take the sharp part of my scissors and I the hole and then do

to you don't want to cut it all the way off you want to leave it like this so that you got your little handle here and then we're going to fill it with soil to to the top maybe about an inch below it depends on I think she's cut these pretty deep but just to about an inch below it you want at least three in of so and it needs to be moist before you put it in here because it's much more difficult to wet it after so you don't want to do that after you put your seeds in there you want it to be wet when you put the seeds in because they're usually very very tiny very tiny then you're going to close it up and we're going to seal it all the way around with our and then we're going to label it and we're going to set it outside in a place and we're leave it unless it's really dry because you don't want these to dry out so you want to kind of make sure keep an eye on them and make sure they stay wet not soaking wet but damp you definitely want it to be damp in there you don't want your seeds to dry out just like you do when you start seeds any other way and then in the spring you will open these up whenever you're ready to plant them out because they will have sprouted and you can either you know at that point you can cut them out into brownie size pieces or you can very strategically pull them out one by one if you're anal rended like me with the purple cone flow individually or you can just plant them as a hunk of seeds or however you want

do I saw a hand and I'll do questions in just a second periodically make sure that your mix is moist the rain snow and sleep typically provides enough moisture especially around here we usually have a very wet winter last winter was exceptional because it was kind of dry I had to water my jugs last year which is the first time I've had to do that in several years um the cold and freezing temperatures the thawing the complete that completes the stratification process and it mimics the seeds natural environment that they're in uh and it typically produces very Hardy seeds and then transplant your seedlings when they're ready and as soon as the soil can be worked like you don't have to necessarily wait till it warms up or anything like that if you're ready to do it in March do it in March your final steps is just remember your seedlings need to stay watered so if you're kind of like me and you've got 50 of these things sitting around you're not going to get them all planted in the same day so if we've got consistently warm temperatures outside you definitely want to open them up so they can breathe and make you keep them water because they'll dry out really fast uh transplant directly into your garden when they're two to three Ines taller they have true leaves um as the weather begins to warm and you're if you're like me you're not in a position to plant everything right away just make sure that there's enough ventilation um open the containers and then just make sure you keep them watered that's the biggest thing and you can fertilize them too that always helps um if you have seeds that typically require scarring um like the uh blue indigo and the white Indigo those are big those will be big seeds you do not have to scarify those in order to germinate them um is this those softening uh the seed coat will soften with this process if you start them early enough um let's see painter tape works really good to keep your Containers closed you can use duct tape but it really really aderess to the J so the the cheap uh packing tape is good and painter tape is good because it comes off it it's easier to open them part sun part shap location is recommended I always put mine in the most Sun I can find I just always I just have always done it that way um let's see what else all right now and then I'll cover the seats that I brought and then I'll take questions so this one this first one here is Southern Prairie Aster this is these are all natives by the way these are all Native flowers this one is average height of 12 to 20 in and you're going to want to space it 16 to 20 prefers dry to average soil all of these are pretty much going to be full sun some of them can tolerate part part shade like dappled shade or um but for the most part it's going to be the soil conditions that are going to matter but for the most part these are natives they're not super picky uh at least I've noticed that because I really thought that I had planted I have a really wet spot in my yard and I planted all these you know flowers over there and didn't know a thing about any of them and most all of them fall into this dry to average soil requirement and it's like a super wet area and they're all thriving they've been there for five six years so I would say that for the most part if you want to plant it there try because they do just fine I tried to choose varieties that I knew would Bloom either first year or at least by second year the only one

that that's not true of and this one is probably not going to be for the faint of heart this is the purple poppy mow this one has a really sporadic germination so it yeah it's got a it's a sporadic germin but once it does and it takes off this is a beautiful beautiful plant it's a crawls the ground it doesn't set down Roots though and it dies back to the ground when it's done so but it sprawls out like two to three feet from the crown and it blooms in purple poppy like bright magenta purple poppy color it's beautiful I have this in my art as well and then sweet cone flour I think everybody is familiar with that it just is like purple cone flour only it's this is called sweet cone flour because this is aromatic if you crush the FL pet the Le like swedes so that's also it's AKA swedes um Downey skull cap is a really really good flower for those of us who neglect their Gardens because this I have this girl and it's it's made this huge I mean I started with a plant about this big around and I have a I have a cluster of it now and it's probably been there for five or six years and it's probably this bigger around and it's super Dr resistant I mean and it just blooms all summer and it doesn't matter how dry or hot it gets it's and it's beautiful it's blue it's

gorgeous um shining blue star Amia is almost like a shrub it grows in a huge cluster and it's really pretty It Gets In the late spring it gets blue flowers on the top of it and you can actually cut it back and sometimes if we have a cool enough fall will bloom a second time mine has um but it's gorgeous as well it's another real pretty blue but it's it's considered a forstar on the landscape because it's such a it's a neat it's what they call a neat plant so it's not messy looking it's very uniform it grows in a nice face shape it's gorgeous and then of course purple com flour which is a lot of people really adore purple com flow and it's very easy and it's beautiful when it BLS okay

questions yes we're going to come yes I'm going to have everybody come up and I'm not sure how many people we have

I

think's I think everybody can get two I think there should be enough for everybody to get two yeah you the lid on

would be okay no that as long as you have those holes in the bottom you'll be totally fine that water's going to drain right out just make sure you have good drainage yep I have a greenhouse lid is off the rain comes right down to a table where I was hoping to sew a bunch in the winter on a table so it have some sun but it would have all the moisture and all the cold would that work or does it not need to be in the as long as it's getting this I don't know the answer to that question because that's going to reduce your light by 10% being inside the greenhouse because this this is 10% and then you put it inside the greenhouse that' be another 10% so it would be 10% less light a lot of natives are light um dependent on germination so like when you when you sprinkle these in on your soil after you fill up your jugs with dirt you're going to sprinkle these in like pepper flakes do not cover them with soil you're going to want them to stay open to the light you that you can take maybe take the top maybe take the lid and just kind of press them in make sure they make good contact with the soil but you do not want to cover experim ins you could definitely try it I don't know because I the way this works is for them to get the freezing and to get the

water that would be that's probably going to be your only because that the greenhouse does filter some and these will filter another

percent I don't do

something what if you don't have a source for milk jugs milk jugs you can use vinegar jugs um rotisserie containers you buy chicken okay you can use rotisserie container now it's not going to have as much soil in it so you're going to want to transplant quicker okay like in the spring because it's only going to have the that the bottom of the like so deep The Grapes container works good too the one the grapes container and containers Okay and like you know I've noticed now with the spinach containers they got those tear off Lids so you can cover those with uh plastic wrap you can use Saran wrap on them or piece of plastic just a piece of clear plastic put a rubber band on it whatever poke some holes in it so that just anything that make sure you get water in it you vegetable oil vegetable oil containers two liters you can use two liters if you drink sodas you can use the I've used the green ones too those work containers the berries for grapes um anything like that

yeah oh and the ice cream place too uh swirls

she and then I actually never used you know those bags come in i' use those I mean if I can make a planter out of it at my house it's it's done for it's going in it's going in the bag for so what about the metal cuz I know these things come with a clear plastic top on them would the metal be okay absolutely like I said though when it starts to warm up in the spring with this band Metal you're going to want to transplant them quicker so that it doesn't heat up too fast I mean I don't know that it necessarily would especially if it's sitting on the ground it may not but as long as the you don't have a lot of growing room with this you w as much here for the plants to come up so when they start to sprout in the spring don't let them touch the top of it pull the top off because once they you don't want them to touch the top sorry one last and kind of what's the difference between using these and and growing them and throwing seeds straight on the ground okay um but here sometimes you do that too I'm just wondering yeah to newbie I have I have had I've had zero Lu throwing them on the ground I don't know if it's because they just wash away like they just get you know we get those goalie washers in the spring and they just get washed out and they get buried in the dirt and they don't come up because like I said a lot of them are light dependent on germination they have to have that light so I'm thinking that's probably more my you know it's user problem but I would say this makes it a little easier and you're going to get more germination if you do it this way you can certainly do it on the ground you know that you absolutely could um and good luck to you I have no tips on how to do that though because I've never had any Lu doing it that's a lot of the reason why I started doing this because they just mine mine always have washed

out too too much water I you know this is more of a controlled environment so can you bury should you bury no don't

bu you mean the seeds or the put these in the ground they don't blow away no no mine don't ever I put mine right on the picnic table I've never

had M will away so I have to keep them right up against my house and sometimes you I'll even take a string and go through one come through swing through another and kind of rope them together and secure them with a Gunter or whatever whatever's around I put mine on the picnic table that I have and I I'm not real good about it but I have a just like a 2x4 Outback and I just put it along the back of the the because I have usually my picnic table is full of Js and I'll just put like a 2x4 or 4X six or whatever the back of it to keep them from

blowing off of the but I don't think I've I've actually had my Greenhouse turn over but I've never had I've never lost my

CH I mean I have I white s back of my y there somebody else raise their hand

if there's somebody before me no no no go ahead um just talking said put all your on the picnic

table you can put them on the ground I have a 100 pound Malamute that's very nosy so mine going on the but if you don't have a 100 pound Malamute you can say right on the

ground it's the Zoomies and she's Li to run right into them so no I just put them up there because and yeah is that in the direct sign your P me table in the direct sign yeah I push it as far as I can because my back porch area there is kind of shaded in the winter now in the sun in the once we get into summer it gets full on sun right there so I can kind of Judge how a lot of times I even like sco J the P table and Scoot it over as far as I can get it so that they're

all so um I am totally new at this and I see that we're doing flowers but C can regular vegetables be done like this you can definitely and we've done it successfully you're just going to want to wait and do that a little closer to the like maybe L February you can start that's usually like when we start isbr late February and you're going to want to start your later the the ones that take the longest like peppers and things like that and you're definitely going to want those in a sunny warm spot you don't want those in a cold in the shade Tomatoes you can wait on that only literally takes weeks very few sometimes days Tomatoes uh squash cucumbers you we've done all of them we've done everything like but to cool seasoned vegetables you can do now so like if you had a place that you were going to plant out your lettuce or Your Spinach you can go ahead and get those started now because this is a little protective area so these are like little mini green houses so you can get those going and those things are cold

hardy yes

that's how do you how do you learn whether it's on the seed pack or whatever where do you find out whether it's okay to start now or to wait a while these all of these seeds came from Missouri wild flowers and they have their on their website when you order the seeds it'll tell you how many weeks cold stratification they need but pretty much any wild flower is going to require I'm going to just blanket say most of them require cold stratification there's very few that don't okay they almost all require some level of not all of them require you know eight weeks eight to 12 weeks but some of them do and that's why we start them now because if you start them now it's going to cover that whole range and it it's also a matter of you know how sometimes we have warmer Springs like last year I had a few things that I needed 60 days of cold and I was afraid I wasn't going to get it because we kind of warmed up really early last year and I was like I'm afraid but I did I ended up getting good germination but some things take longer some really need a good 12 weeks like I think the mow one of these up here takes a good 12 weeks of cold stratification and then some things only maybe need three or four weeks like lavender because I've done lavender oregano parsley you know and I've usually I've started those I've started those in January I just throw them in there I mean they're not going to they're not going to die because those are those do require cold Strat stratification but they're not going to germinate until the ready okay so I don't have to worry about them germinating in Fe because it's just not probably not going to happen and it's lavender so be fine it likes cold Rosemary but basically the information would be on the seed SE seed pack itself it should be I won't say that every company puts that on there and I think that's where a lot of people fail when they start wild flowers because a lot of that information is not on there but if you look it up online and look up several different if you uh if you look at a different um seat dealer I guess okay and look on their website you you might be able to get that information but you can you can almost assume that almost all perennial wild flowers are going to need some sort of stratification okay some of them have multiple treatments that they need so just as an example because I have seed packets not necessarily Wildlife but so Sprouts in 14 to 21 days um um and it does say it's Frost hearty which one is that um it's it's actually a poppy okay but I was saying those terms would say it's ready to do now I have winter sewing poppies before okay and very successfully but they will not come up until the spring like I've put them in like in January and then they don't they don't germinate until it warms up and a lot of these won't but you're they still have to have that cold period before they'll come up so basically it doesn't matter when start cuz they won't come up until they won't come up until they're ready got it yeah and it says frost hardy you can definitely win or sell those okay yeah



easily puppies are transplanted when they come up though they very finicky if you wait till they're all lanky and loopy they don't they don't

last anybody else I about the hardening process you you were talking about so they they sprout and they're very tender so then to just to harden them what do you do you don't you don't have to they're already outside they're already they're good to go oh okay okay y you just open your jugs and Transplant them out just like any other plant you probably want to transplant them on a cloud of your day or do it first thing in the morning give them a few hours to warm up to that you know I wouldn't do it at 2 o' in the afternoon so you know I wouldn't open The Jug and then try to transplant them like in the heat of the day but definitely do it first thing in morning yeah that's part of the why you should at this work yeah

yes okay I guess one last question because it came late what type of soil potting soil or Gard soil potting mix definitely a good quality potting Mi you don't want to use anything sterile you want to definitely use like I always use Mir or Sam Sam's brand but they don't have it out right now so but I always use a good quality potty

mix it's need anybody else okay so go ahead and fill up your jugs just to just below the maybe about an the spot line