

# Winter Sowing Yields Summer Joy

By

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One of speakers at LIHORT Jan, meeting, Eileen Anders, provided us with a tutorial on “winter seeds.” Never really heard the term,” winter seeds or winter sowing “before but did think of use of cold frames to start seeds in unheated outdoor structures. I never thought the ‘structure” could be a repurposed milk container or salad container. Eileen was very good at bringing in all the necessary tools, with written instructions as a hand-out in addition to a lively presentation. In the midst of January doldrums, this sounded like a spark of spring, so off we went to collect used milk containers, plastic containers with covers of various sizes. When we could not collect enough, we started to eye the neighbor’s recycle bin and low and behold some great large strawberry containers! Sure glad they sprang for those expensive strawberries in middle of winter! We had some seeds in house, but by Feb, even Walmart was selling seeds. All set and ready to go, we began planting. Then brought them outdoors and placed them in secure spots like, a big planter so they would not blow away.



Lettuce, parsley, basil, Oh My! Flowers galore- alyssum, snow in summer, cosmos, marigold, violas and forget- me –nots.

Everything went little by little. Checked on them every few days and some days the soil was dry. Not sure what to do, but it was in the Feb. meeting that the question was raised during the Q and A session if we should water the containers if they seemed dry. Yes!! We were on our way. Made it through the winter and by early spring most went into very large pots.



Well there were three very large pots of lettuce giving enough “salad greens” for weeks and loads of basil. We just took in our 5<sup>th</sup> cutting of basil and froze it since have so much. There has been some parsley and loads of flowers. The cosmos are three to four feet tall, had to trim them back and our planters are filled with violas and forget-me nots. We filled in our side garden with alyssum and snow in summer- All thriving.

We are hooked on Winter Sowing and thank Eileen Anders for teaching us about this method of starting our seeds.

