

Spring & Summer Sowing Method

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Is there Spring and Summer Sowing? Yes there is!

What you need to do first is assure that the soil in your containers stays moist. You need a container that has some depth to it....like an empty milk jug or two liter soda bottle. The increased depth of the soil in ratio to the soil surface will decrease the amount of moisture loss through evaporation. Deeper soil will hold more moisture because less is exposed to air. Second, because of the warmer days, the air temperature inside the jug will heat up faster and higher so the jugs need to be in part shade. More specifically, they should be in a location where they will not get intense midday sun. Third and last, you will need to add extra vent holes in the top of the container to allow for rapid transpiration of the warm air inside the jug. Very important! ~ In warm weather you need to keep a close eye on the watering needs of your seed jugs. Have several watering bottles prepared and ready to go.

What seeds can I start now?

You can Spring and Summer Sow the seeds of any perennial or biennial that says on the back of the packet "sow after last Spring frost" or "sow after ground has warmed", or similar statements. That information might not be mentioned at all....as long as you read on the packet any wording that indicates NO COLD PERIOD is required for germination, you'll make good choices.

Here's a list of perennials and biennials you can try with Spring and Summer Sowing:

Agastache
Asclepius
Aurinia saxitile
Belamcanda
Campanula
Centranthus
Coreopsis
Dianthus
Digitalis
Daylily
Echinacea
Eupatorium
Flax
Gaillardia
Geum
Hibiscus
Hollyhock
Hosta
Kniphofia
Lathyrus
Lunaria
Lupine
Lychnis
Lunaria
Malva
Monarda
Myosotis
Nepeta
Ornamental Grass
Papaver
Penstemon
Phlox
Platycodon
Pyrethrum
Ratibida
Rudbeckia
Salvia
Silene
Shasta daisy
Snapdragon
Verbena
Veronica
Yarrow

The cheery blooms of Spring Sown Annuals will help perk up the garden during midsummer when some flowers start to wane and fizzle out from the heat. Summer Sown Annuals can provide a "punch" of colorful fresh blossoms to enliven the autumn garden.

Ageratum
African Daisy
Alyssum /
Balsam/ Impatiens
Candytuft

Calendula
California Poppy
Cardinal Climber
Cleome
Coleus
Cornflower
Cosmos
Four-o-Clocks
Lobelia
Marigold
Melampodium
Morning Glories
Nasturtium
Nicotiana
Nigella
Pansy
Petunia
Phlox (Drummond)
Portulaca
Snapdragon
Stock
Sunflower
Sweet Peas
Tithonia
Viola
Zinnia

When can I transplant my Spring and Summer Sown seedlings into the ground?

Let the seeds germinate and when they have a couple of sets of leaves, they can go right in the garden. You can put the seedlings into the ground while they're small. Keep them well watered for the first few weeks.

If you are planting the seedlings into an area of direct full sun you can help them along for a few days by placing a lawn chair over them during the midday to shield them from the brilliant midday sun which can be very intense; the seedlings are already acclimatized to the warm temperatures and longer days but the brilliant sun can stress them and may even give them a bit of sunscald. Perennials can be transplanted in late summer with enough time to root before winter. Give them at least 6-8 weeks before the cold weather settles in.