

# Recycling - Seeding's

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A fun way to introduce youth or to at least add some different interest to seeding plants, particularly garden plants, is to use recycled materials. In Wyoming it is a general practice to use egg shells in gardening. They can be broken up and scattered on top of the ground to help control slugs or keep critters out. As they break down they add calcium to the soil.

If you were to keep some egg shells with just the top broken open and a very small hole in the bottom then these could be used as a planter for new seedlings. You would just fill them with potting soil and plant your seed into them. The egg carton holds them nicely and transporting them from one location to another is just as easy. When the seedling are ready to transplant into a bigger pot or to place outside just break the shell up some and plant away, the egg shell breaks down adding some calcium to the soil which the plants can utilize.

There are a lot of clear plastic containers at the grocery stores which contain vegetables and these containers have lids. These would make good mini greenhouses. Here again just put some seed starting mix into the container, sprinkle seeds on top, moisten the mixture, place the lid back on and place in a warm bright spot.

Another option would be to use the empty toilet paper tubes, cut the tubes in half fill them with seed starting mixture, place these into a container to hold excess moisture and add your seeds. When these seedlings are ready to move to larger pots or transplant outside just slit or tear the sides of the tubes and place into the garden spot. The cardboard will break down.

There is lots of time to get ready for gardening for this coming year. Although these technics could be used for herbs or flowers to be used inside. Most garden plants need four to six weeks growing before being set outside. Without supplemental protection say from a hoop house, frost blanket, or some other kind of protection from light frost the cool season vegetables can go out in April or May and the warm season vegetables should not be set out until early June. Of course this will depend on where you live and will vary from year to year.

If you have not ordered seeds for this year now is a good time to start looking at catalogs to see all the new types of varieties available this year. Or to go with the tried and true varieties that have done well in the past for you. If you have had disease issues, look for different varieties, especially ones that are disease resistant. I also look for "All American" or other designations to indicate some type of objective review has been done to evaluate the attributes of that particular variety.

If your garden is not very close to a flower garden, then by planting some flowers that bloom at different times of the year will also help encourage pollinators to your garden. This will increase the amount of produce from your garden. It will also brighten up the area and add a little pizzazz.

So if you are into recycling and want to try some of these tips or you have other ideas of things to try, I would encourage you to do so. This can be a fun activity for kids. I am looking forward to getting back outside this spring, especially after receiving all those garden catalogs.

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