Grow native wildflowers (and other stuff too!) in Milk Jug Mini-Greenhouses

The Winter Sow Method
The winter sow method involves sowing seeds in altered milk jugs or other suitable containers and allowing them to spend the winter outside. As temperatures fluctuate, the seeds will undergo several freeze/thaw cycles breaking down the seed coat and encouraging germination! The milk-jug also acts as a mini-greenhouse producing earlier germination in spring.

Soil
Use potting mix including perlite, peat, vermiculite or other natural amendments. Do not use topsoil or regular garden soil - it will be too heavy and will not retain enough moisture to germinate. Avoid potting mix with fertilizer, it can kill young seedlings.

Light
Place your containers in an area that gets full sun throughout winter and into spring.

Water
Start with moist potting mix. The opening in the container will allow enough snow and rain to get in to keep the container wet. In spring as temperatures warm up, check the containers often and water as needed.

Containers
Containers should be semi-transparent, have a removable lid or opening, and allow a minimum of 2 inches of soil depth.
Let's get going...

1. Toss the cap.
   Cut the milk jug around the circumference, stopping about an inch from where you started, keeping the lid attached to the bottom to create a hinge.
   Poke drainage holes in the bottom.

2. Fill the bottom portion with moist potting mix and plant seeds.

3. Label the container with a paint pen and cover with packing tape—or write the name of the plant on a popsicle stick (in pencil or sharpie) and stick it inside the container. Run packing tape all around the cut seam to create a seal.

4. Stick it out in the snow and wait until spring!