

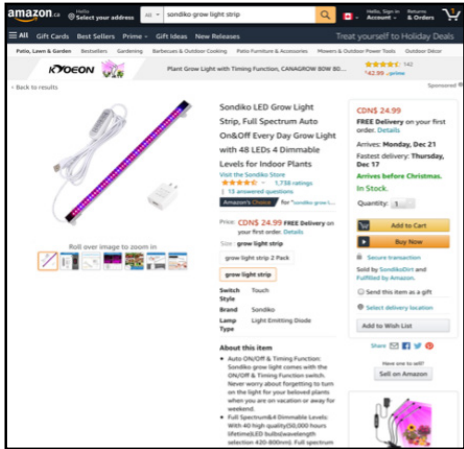
WINTER HERB GROWING EXPERIMENT

BY STEPHANIE MOLL



MATERIALS USED

- Plastic containers like Boston lettuce or spinach come in
- Compostable egg cartons
- Grow light: I ordered this Sondiko light from Amazon. It has a timer and 3 different levels of light. Price was \$24.99. Amazon has lots of options to choose from.
- Seed starter soil. I bought this from Reno Depot.
- Seeds: purchased Sorrel, Thai Basil, Rosemary and Garlic Chives on-line from Richter's in Ontario.



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Dec 6, 2020

- Planted seeds and created their labels
- Poked holes in bottom of egg cartons
- Fill halfway with soil and added seeds
- Covered with small amount of dirt and press down gently
- Watered by dribbling through fingers
- Closed the lid of the egg cartons
- Placed lids on the plastic containers to create a greenhouse effect
- Placed a dozen of the garlic chive seeds on a wet paper towel in a clear plastic Tupperware container
- Placed a big lid under to catch water
- Began daily watering with a mister

Dec 9-10, 2020

- Sorrel seeds started sprouting first in the plastic lettuce container, before sorrel in the egg carton.

Dec 13, 2020

- Basil started sprouting in plastic vegetable container

Dec 14, 2020

- Basil and some rosemary started sprouting in carton. Paper towel chive seeds started germinating.

Dec 15, 2020

- Chive seeds start to sprout in carton
- Began watering at room temperature using a baster: gets you closer to the soil and doesn't damage seedlings
- Water twice a day or as needed to keep from drying out.

Dec 16, 2020

- Here is a picture of the chive seeds germinating on a wet paper towel in a Tupperware dish. I planted these in various pots.



Dec 17-26, 2020

- Water daily. Used grow light from morning till evening.

Dec 27, 2020

- Thinned out crowded seedlings
- I attached the grow light to the underside of a shelf on a plant stand. I chose this light partly because I could attach it easily with 2 zipties.



- Before and after pictures of the Basil (only 2 seedlings per section):



Jan 02, 2021

- Started watering with fertilizer, once a week (used Schultz 10-15-10)



Jan 12, 2021

- Second sets of leaves formed on Basil, Rosemary and Sorrel.

Jan 18, 2021

- This was a big day! Repot the sorrel, basil, and rosemary into deeper containers with more dirt.
- Pulled the carton sections apart. Depending on how wet the carton was, I either left it intact or removed it.



- Combined the seed starting soil and regular potting mix (used a 1-1 ratio)



- Drilled 5 holes in the bottom of the cottage cheese containers and filled them about half way full of dirt. Then I placed 4-6 seedlings into each container and watered them.



- Moved plants closer to the grow light by raising them up a bit.

