GROWING NATIVE PLANTS FROM SEED

Seeds are the embryo of a plant (grows into new plant), usually wrapped in a tough exterior coat for protection (seed coat) and containing some stored food (endosperm)

Benefits of Growing from Seed

- ✓ Learn multiple stages of plant lifecycle
- ✓ Can result in more complete coverage and natural balance
- ✓ Less expensive
- ✓ Reduced labour; Beneficial for larger scale projects
- ✓ Preserves genetic diversity
- ✓ Reduced waste

Challenges of Growing from Seed

- ✓ Timing is critical; Many native seeds must experience a winter to germinate (cold stratification)
- ✓ Patience; some species take a long time to flower
- ✓ New seedlings are fragile and susceptible to damage by birds, slugs, trampling, frost and our own weeding errors!

Plants like White Fawn Lily require patience when planted from seed, but are well worth the wait!

Always collect ethically if you are collecting from wild seed.

No more than 10% of a population should ever be taken. If someone else has already been there, take nothing.

Don't collect in parks and never collect rare species.

Drying and Storage

Collect ripe seed and dry in paper bags or envelopes

Paper envelopes can be stored in plastic bags or totes when the seed is completely dry

Store in a dry, cool, dark place

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TIMING IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF GROWING FROM SEED

Although some species need to be sown in the fall, many wildflowers can also be planted in the spring

Spring sown **PERENNIALS**	Spring sown **ANNUALS**
Entire-leaved Gumweed	Sea Blush
Yarrow	Small-flowered Blue-eyed Mary
Pearly Everlasting	Farewell-to-Spring
Woolly Sunflower	Small-flowered forget-me-not
Field Chickweed	Miner's Lettuce
Spring Gold	Large-flowered Collomia
Coastal Sage	

A stunning splash of Woolly Sunflower and Farewell-to-Spring. These summer blooms can be sown in the spring and flower the same year.

COLD STRATIFICATION

Some perennial seeds require a period of moist and cold conditions before they will germinate - **cold stratification.**

This is an adaptation of native plants in temperate zones that prevents seed from germinating in the autumn and then freezing.

Great Camas, Common Camas, California Oatgrass, Nodding Onion, Red Columbine, and **Broad-leaved Shootingstar** are all examples of species that require cold stratification and should be sown in the fall.

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