

Once again, thank you for your interest in helping us grow native grasses and wildflowers for restoration projects. You will hear more about where the plants will be planted later. Below is information to get started on the *Grow Out Native Plants Project*.

Each seed packet I mail you will provide sufficient seed to grow out one flat of 18, 4"X4" pots. You can find photos of each species listed below at <http://plants.usda.gov>.

Click on [Welcome to the PLANTS Database | USDA PLANTS](#)

Use the **SEARCH - Name Search** tool for either the Scientific or Common name of a plant you would like to learn more about. I've found searching for the Scientific "genus" works better than filling in both the genus and species name. For example, type in *Centaurea* and then search the list that pops up for the species *americana* (American basketflower).

Please choose what you would like to grow from the following:

Native wildflowers:

- American Basketflower (*Centaurea americana*)
- Rough Coneflower (*Rudbeckia grandiflora*)
- Rattlesnake Master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*)
- White Prairie Clover (*Dalea candida*)
- Texas Coneflower (*Rudbeckia texana*)
- Prairie blazing star (*Liatris pycnostachya*)
- Missouri ironweed (*Veronia missurica*)



American basketflower

Native grasses:

- Gulf Coast Muhly (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*)
- Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*)
- Florida Paspalum (*Paspalum floridanum*)
- Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)
- Longspike tridens (*Tridens strictus*)
- Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*)
- Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*)
- Arrowfeather threeawn (*Aristida purpurascens*)



Texas coneflower

There is a new native plant growing handbook to guide you in growing out native grasses and wildflowers. To view the plant growing handbook go to the Coastal Prairie Partnership (CPP) website

<http://www.coastalprairiepartnership.org/page/cp-plant-growers-hb>.

Select **Fullscreen** on this page. Once the full-screen page has loaded, use the Zoom + to enlarge the book, and then turn the pages 1-18 with the arrow at the bottom of the page.

Below is some pertinent information about growing out flats of native grasses or wildflowers. Photos accompany these instructions on the CPP website listed above:

What do I need to grow prairie natives?

CONTAINERS - You can start your seeds in flats, 4”X4” pots, or “cone-tainers”. You’ll need 1-gallon pots for “bumping up” seedlings before planting.

LIGHT - Seeds should be started in a semi-shaded area (20%-40% shade). Once sprouted and established, seedlings in 1-gallon containers will thrive in full sun.

SOIL - We suggest starting you seeds in a good potting mix. This soil dries quickly and will necessitate daily watering.

When you place your seedlings into 1-gallon containers you should use a sandy-loam topsoil. Do not use potting soil in 1-gallon containers.

WATER - If you want to be a successful prairie plant grower, you need to water methodically and frequently. For young seedlings, we suggest watering twice a day for 1 to 2 minute intervals. Once your seedlings are robust 1-gallon-sized plants, you should water them thoroughly twice a week until water runs out of the bottom of the container.

PROTECTION - Consider using cheesecloth to protect seedlings grown in open areas from seedeaters and from damaging rain.

SOWING SEEDS - Sowing prairie seeds can be an enjoyable experience to share with friends and family. If seeds are plentiful, don’t worry too much about getting an exact quantity of seeds into each container unless the seeds are tiny (such as bushmint or horsemint seeds). Spread seeds liberally over each cell. You can always divide seedlings into separate containers later. As a general rule of thumb, you should sow wildflower seeds soon after collection.

I am available to work with you on any questions you may have. Flo

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