

NATIVE PLANT SEED COLLECTION TIPS

Always ask permission to collect from land not your own.

Take no more than 1/3 of the seed of one plant and never use more than 1/3 of the plants at a site. This ensures genetic diversity and that you leave seed for wildlife and self sowing.

Seeds are usually ripe about a month after flowering when:

- they fall easily from the plant
- pods lose their green color and turn brown
- the stem holding the seed head is brown and dry
- the seed capsule opens
- about a month after flowering
- ripe seeds are plump, hard and usually brown or black; unripe seeds are still soft and green.

Collecting and bagging:

- Select seed heads with stems long enough to bundle together.
- Place those with dry, easily scattered stems/seeds into paper bags right in the field.
- To speed drying, remove leaves from stems with a quick stripping motion. Don't worry if you miss a few!
- Suspend bags or thick stems in an unheated room out of direct sunlight.
- Label each variety, along with when and where collected.
- To minimize seed loss, put all but the thickest stalks head-down into a paper bag.

Storing:

- Check every 7 to 10 days for dryness and rodent damage.
- Rotate the larger, thicker stalks.
- When they are dry enough, separate seeds from plant parts and transfer to labeled glass jars.
- Store jars away from areas with fluctuating temperatures, *but* where you will remember to visually check for moisture.
- Do not refrigerate or mix with sand until you decide which propagation method and time table to use.

For Planting: Consult PrairieMoon.com for more specific species propagation method.



TWIN CITIES

wildonestwincities.org

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**ALL MONTHLY TOPIC MEETINGS
ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**

3rd Tuesdays • Sep-Nov, Jan, Mar-May

6:45 pm - 7:00 pm | Social

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm | Program

Wood Lake Nature Center

6710 Lake Shore Dr S, Richfield MN

SPRING AND SUMMER EVENTS:

Feb: Design With Nature Conference

May: Native Plant Sale

May-Sep: Metro Area Garden Tours and
Community Gardening at Nokomis Naturescape

Please visit wildonestwincities.org for more information
on programs, tours, resources and membership.

Who we are...

Wild Ones Twin Cities is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to provide learning and field experiences to those interested in Minnesota native plant landscaping and environmental education.

Why join...

- **LEARN** more about native plant landscaping and related topics during our monthly programs from experts in the field.
Minnesota Wild Ones Chapters also sponsor an annual Design With Nature conference in February.
- **SUPPORT** our mission by purchasing local native wildflowers, grasses and shrubs during our annual spring native plant sale.
- **TOUR** local homeowners' native plant gardens and yards during the summer months.
- **VOLUNTEER** at Wild Ones sponsored community activities, such as the Minneapolis Monarch Festival and native plant habitat gardening at Nokomis Naturescape in Minneapolis.
- **SHARE** and connect through regular email and quarterly newsletters or get up-to-date program information on our website.
- **ENJOY getting to know people who share your interest!**

\$40 tax-deductible annual membership includes the national organization and local chapter.
Learn more and join the movement at wildones.org