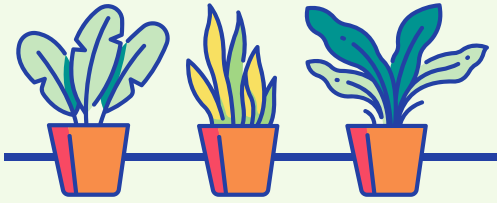




Winter Sowing



Many native forb seeds require cold, moist stratification for 30–60 days in order to sprout. Winter Sowing is a method used to start native plant seeds outdoors, in covered pots, allowing them to be cold, moist stratified in the soil. Begin in early January in Zone 6/7.

Find/Buy Seeds

Collect seed on private land with guidance or purchase from a reputable native plant nursery.

Sow Seeds

Fill the containers with potting soil, sow the seeds separately but closely. The plants are only starting here—you will prick out each sprout and pot it on individually in March.

Prepare Your Containers

You will need clear plastic containers like the rectangular ones that package lettuce and mixed greens.

Milk jugs work, too, but you have to cut the tops off about 2/3 of the way up, leaving an inch or so of the plastic side intact to use as a hinge.

These containers will need to stay covered to become little greenhouses for your native seeds.

Poke holes in the sides and bottoms. Leave room for soil 5–6" deep in the bottoms.

Place Containers Outdoors

Find a place to put them outside where they will get sun and be a little sheltered (nestled down into a pile of leaves or mulch, up against a garage or woodpile, etc.).

If it doesn't rain or snow much, water them occasionally.

Check them in February and each week into March or April, watching for sprouts. Be ready to move them into pots or into plug trays.

Seeds & Plants

Buy native seeds online at prairiemoon.com or check out KC-local native plant nurseries Sow Wild Natives and City Roots.