

Weekly Wild Wednesday

January 26th, 2022

What A Week of "Winter Seed Sowing"



PRAIRIE MOON NURSERY

SEEDS | PLANTS | SEED MIXES | TOOLS



YOU READ IT RIGHT - GO SNOW SOWING! Winter, even when snow covers your site, is a great time to sow native seed. Planting now gives Mother Nature time to stratify seeds through natural freeze-thaw cycles.

This stratification process is needed for most wildflower seed to break dormancy and germinate in the spring. Any day through early March on which you can walk around your prepared planting site with relative ease and comfort is potentially a great day to broadcast native seed.

Don't put off your seeding; go snow sowing!

We are watching the forecast diligently here at the "Wild Mess In Progress" and at the "[Friends of Stone Park](#) Pocket Prairie" to begin direct sowing our prepared areas with the next predicted snow storm! Either just before, during, or immediately after the next snow storm we are all ready to go with our locally sourced seeds from the Zales various prairies, the Flathers Wetmore Prairie, and the seeds from local ecotype here at the Wild Mess In Progress!

No matter where your seeds are sourced, keep an eye on the weather and get those seeds out soon! Some of ours went out during and right after our

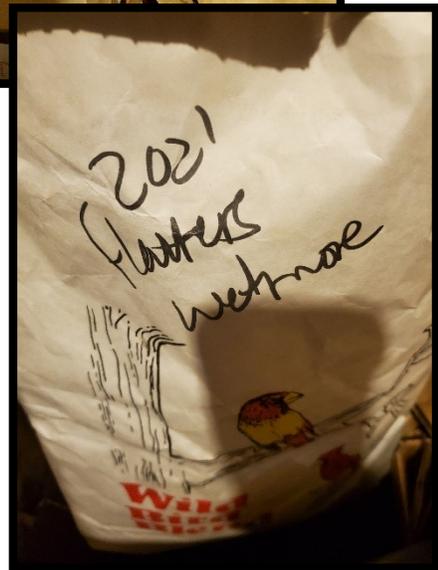
last snow storm! Find what you need, little seeds!

Above, if you do not have a local, ecotype seed need, Prairie Moon has many seed mixes available! They are carefully vetted for types of soil, desired plants, and so much more! Even if you are not

purchasing those mixes, they are an education and excellent guide in themselves! Read All About It!

Click photo from Prairie Moon for link! We are also planting specific Urban seeds for the in-town gardens! Yippee! All of us can do our part! If you think your space is too small to save the Wild, think again and check out these Videos from Homegrown National Park! Even a pot or hanging planter can add to a Homegrown National Park! And Doug tells us the difference between Pollinator and Native Plantings! Thanks, Doug and Michelle!!

If it feels like it might be too chilly for you to even THINK about sowing seeds in the current weather, check out this video! It's an excellent guide for getting us all inspired to head outdoors this Winter!



Flower: ✱



Numerous clusters from buds at the tips of short, spur like lateral shoots on young branches, each cluster with 1 to 6 flowers and emerging with the leaves in spring. Flowers are 1 to 2 inches across with 5 pink, round petals, and a cluster of 20 creamy yellow-tipped stamens surrounding the 5 styles in the center. Flowers are very fragrant.



The 5 sepals are green to red, shorter than the petals, narrowly triangular, sharply pointed at the tip and become spreading or reflexed (bent downward). Sepals and flower stalks are densely covered in woolly hairs.

Leaves and stems:



Leaves are simple and alternate, the blade oblong-elliptic to egg-shaped in outline, 2 to 3 inches long and 3/4 to 2 inches wide, pointed to rounded at the tip, rounded to wedge-shaped at the base, on a 1/2 to 1 inch stalk covered in woolly hairs. The upper surface is dark green, hairy when young becoming hairless or nearly so; the lower surface is lighter and covered in woolly hairs especially along the veins. Edges are toothed, sometimes doubly, with pointed or rounded teeth. At least some leaves have up to 3 shallow lobes per side, often the lobes at the base are more pronounced.

Malus ioensis (Prairie Crabapple)

Plant Info	
Also known as:	Iowa Crab Apple, Wild Crabapple
Genus:	Malus
Family:	Rosaceae (Rose)
Life cycle:	perennial woody
Origin:	native
Habitat:	sun; open woods, thickets, stream banks, floodplains, rocky slopes, open fields, fence rows
Bloom season:	May - June
Plant height:	10 to 20 feet
Wetland Indicator Status:	none
MN county distribution (click map to enlarge):	
National distribution (click map to enlarge):	



Welcome to Iowa Native Trees and Shrubs. We are a plant nursery specializing in growing trees and shrubs native to the midwest using local seed and unique root-pruning technology.

If you would like to schedule a visit, please feel free to contact us. Visits to the nursery are by appointment only. Thank you!

And when you are deciding what plants and shrubs to add to YOUR spaces, here are a few that took us down the Rabbit Hole of Research for OUR spaces!

We REALLY want a few of the Native Prairie Crab Apple Trees, *Malus ioensis*, and Dianne found a grower for us right here in Iowa! Thanks, Dianne!

Grow it Build It has SO many more plants detailed on blogs, videos, and links! We picked Iron Weed and Partridge Pea for research this week! →

Click any photo for various links!



The Ultimate Guide to Ironweed – What you NEED to know

If you are looking for some late season bloomers that are absolute butterfly magnets, then you must consider Ironweed. The clusters of hairy purple to pink flowers are irresistible to pollinators and in particular large butterflies such as Swallowtails and Monarchs.



Greetings,

I'm so glad you enjoyed our growing guide on Ironweed last week. [Today](#), we have a new video launching to share with you.

Joe is launching his video on [Partridge Pea today](#). This annual is one of the best for bees & adds nitrogen to your soil. Enjoy learning all about it [today](#).

NEW VIDEO: [Partridge Pea](#)



ON THE BLOG: [Partridge Pea 101](#)



Get tickets

NATIVE PLANT SCHOOL *Online*

seasons of color

March 3, 2022 @ 7 pm

THU, MAR 3 **7:00 PM**

Seasons of Color
Dyck Arboretum of the Plains

6:30 📶 35%



Curly cup gumweed is a native annual plant, but considered a weed by many because it appears quickly in high abundance after disturbances. That's its job, and it provides tremendous resources (including for pollinators) when it makes that kind of appearance.

My objective for the presentation is to point out that these plants aren't aggressive or in need of control. They are responding to a disturbance, not causing it. In a way, I realized, the process is similar to the way our body reacts when we cut ourselves. There's a built-in response (blood clotting) that prevents the wound from continuing to bleed or get worse. Eventually, a scab forms and holds everything together while the wound heals. Those opportunistic plants are kind of like a scab...

Wait a minute, I thought. I'm trying to make these plants sound positive. Is equating them to a scab really the way to shine a positive light on them? It's not like scabs are something most people celebrate. In fact, people tend to pick at them and pull them off... Oh. Oh! That's even better!

Some landowners, when they see part of their pasture become 'overrun' with ragweed, annual sunflowers, or something similar, are tempted to try to kill off those

THE CONVERSATION



Part of the answer to a more functional and sustainable city may lie in your garden. (Shutterstock)

How urban gardens can boost biodiversity and make cities more sustainable

joe gardener

237-Ecological Gardening: Creating Beauty & Biodiversity

DECEMBER 2, 2021 | CARE, PODCAST



(photo: Amy Prentice)

There were a ridiculous amount of opportunities to sign up for classes, watch videos, get outdoors in the nice weather, and learn, learn, learn this week! Here are just a few of our FAVORITES! Thank you to EVERYONE who sent ideas and links!

Grow Wild With Us!!

Online Presentation: Gardening for Habitat

Cosponsored by Friends of Faneuil Library and The Brighton Garden Club

Wednesday, February 2 • 6:30-7:30 PM



Gardens are habitats, but the degree to which they support local wildlife depends on how we plant and manage them. Our plant choices determine who visits, stays, or passes by as creatures look for food, shelter, to nest, and lay eggs.

Gardenforwildlife.org

About Us Contact

Garden for Wildlife
By National Wildlife Federation

Learn Shop

Plant like the planet depends on it.

Be part of the greatest comeback on Earth by simply stepping out your door and planting a garden for wildlife. It's easy and we have everything you need.



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NPC Native Plant Channel



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Wishing you a week filled with "Winter Seed Sowing!!"



Map underwritten by plantinseeds.org