

Weekly Wild Wednesday

May 24th, 2023

What a Week of "Plants and Planting!"

The Plants Arrived! We had SUCH fun setting up the Plant Sale and the weather was perfect!

We sold almost EVERYTHING by Saturday at noon!

We wrapped up Sunday with smiles—and great ideas for the next Plant Sale!

Stay tuned for dates!

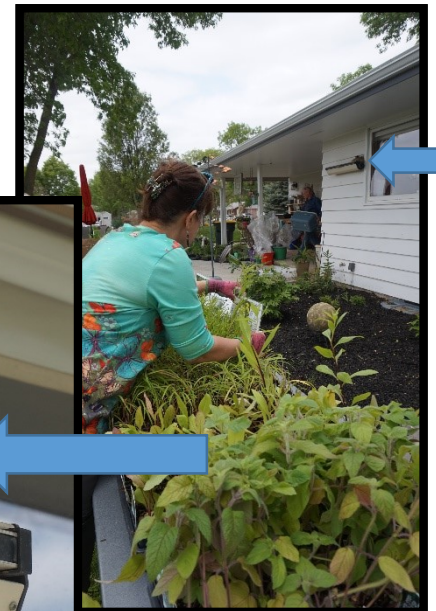


The shrubs and trees below were also a hit! There are a FEW Bur Oaks left as of today, let us know if you want one of those bare root trees!

And where would we have been without our shoppers?

A Special, HEARTFELT thank you to everyone who took a plant (Or a hundred plants) home to share their lives!

'Find what you need, little plants!'



Speaking of sharing their home, this robin was so patient and brave during the ENTIRE three day sale!

She was bothered by nothing, and stuck firmly to her resolve to hatch her tiny, blue eggs.

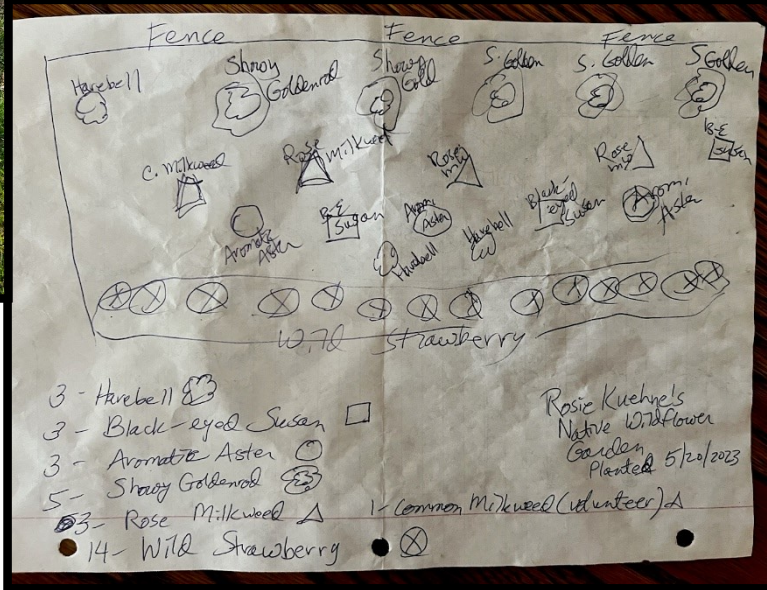
We can hardly wait to greet her babies and congratulate her on her resolve!

Photos by Danielle





Speaking of finding new homes, Dawn designed Rosie's space for her new 100% Native Butterfly Garden! The 3X12 space was perfect for Plant Sale plants and some shared Wild Strawberries from Dawn's personal gardens! What a joy to see this project! Thanks Dawn and Rosie!!



They survived the night!
 MMS 8:17 AM
 Yippee!!!!

←And Dawn still had time this weekend to plant her OWN new plants!
 Woooooowww!!!



Our new Member Grants and Non-Profit Grants were awarded with smiles all around!
 We are so excited to see the birds, butterflies, bees, and other Wild Creatures enjoy these new plantings in the coming years!
 Grow Wild!



SEED COLLECTING FROM TALLGRASS PRAIRIES

Where to Collect?

There are many native species that are abundant in tallgrass prairie. They are found in a wide variety of habitats, from open fields to wooded areas. They are found in a wide variety of habitats, from open fields to wooded areas. They are found in a wide variety of habitats, from open fields to wooded areas.

When to Collect?

Seed collecting is best done in the late summer or early fall, when the seed heads are mature and the weather is dry. This is the best time to collect seeds from tallgrass prairie.

Equipment Needed

Hand trowel, bucket, gloves, hat, sunscreen, water, and a collection bag. You will also need a collection bag for each species you are collecting.

Seed Collecting!! This is such a fun and exciting experience!

This year, at the Wild Mess in Progress, we went out to plant some plugs into an area we had seeded **THREE** years ago—with what we thought were **NO** results. But---drum roll...**THIS YEAR** there are **PLANTS!!** The ones we seeded three years ago! Patience is such a difficult thing...

We recommend this: If you want to expand your gardens over the years on a budget, plant two or three of a species, and then seed around it, or use the seeds from **THAT** plant to grow new plants either directly sown into the ground, or as a project with pots!

How do we know WHEN to look for those seeds? The Tallgrass Prairie Center has an amazing and gorgeous guide that you can print out and keep!

← Click the photo to download and print **YOUR OWN PERSONAL** guide! With details!

Thank you [Tallgrass Prairie Center!](http://TallgrassPrairieCenter.org) Your website is jam packed **FULL** of great information, guides, and resource contacts!

← Following the timing guide, we looked and looked for **DAYS** at the seed heads developing from Loess Hills Wild Ones plants in the [Agape Gardens!](#)

How to Collect?

Seeds are collected from the seed heads of tallgrass prairie plants. The seed heads are cut and the seeds are removed. The seeds are then stored in a collection bag.

Are There Negative Impacts to Collecting Seed Bank?

Collecting seeds from tallgrass prairie plants can have negative impacts on the ecosystem. It can reduce the genetic diversity of the plants and affect the local wildlife.

Collecting Seed for Genetic Diversity

Collecting seeds from tallgrass prairie plants can help to preserve the genetic diversity of the species. This is important for the long-term survival of the species.

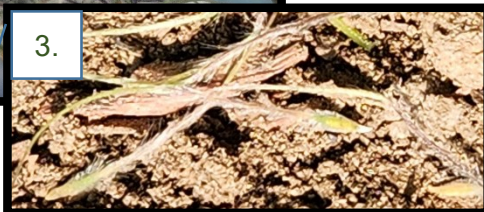
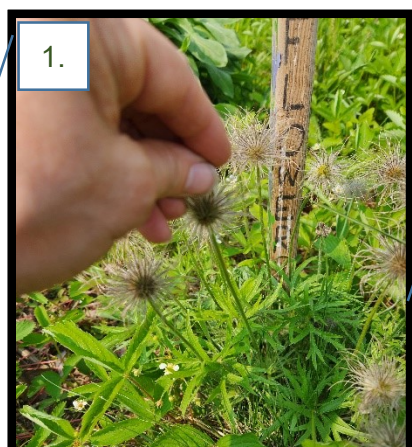
Jeanne gave us permission to harvest some of those seeds, so we **PREPARED** an area to put these seeds after researching these seeds on the Prairie Moon website--- and speaking with Mt. Cuba Center. Prairie Moon refrigerates their seeds and plants directly in Fall with a minimal success, read about that [HERE](#). Mt. Cuba informed us that they direct seed their plants in the spot they wish them to grow **IMMEDIATELY** after the seeds are harvested.

We are trying both!

Today, we are direct seeding in the permanent spot. We checked every time we were in the area to see if they were ripe. How can you tell? We **GENTLY** tugged at the seed heads and **NOTHING** happened. Not ready. We went back the next day and **GENTLY** tugged at the seed head and two seeds came out which we sprinkled near the plant itself—Not ready.

The Next day we **GENTLY** tugged at the seed head and **YIPPEEEEEEEEE!!!** 1. They all came off! 2. We placed them in a plastic bag in a cooler and rushed to *The Wild Mess in Progress* to place them in their prepared spot! Dry, Loess soil, top of a well-drained area.

3. We sprinkled the seeds, and pressed them firmly into the soil. 4. Last, we **VERY** lightly sprinkled Loess barely over the seeds, pressed again, and carefully marked the spot! Now we wait...and wait...and wait...



Wishing you a week filled with "Plants and Plantings!"

