

# Weekly Wild Wednesday

June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024

*What a Week of Playing and Planting!"*

Dawn, Mary and I had SUCH fun playing in Mary's front yard!! We dug out the grass, installed twelve Iris in the Rain Garden, and put four pale purple cone flowers, three orange butterfly milkweed, four nodding onions and non-native black petunia accents to create the orange and black curbside East High team look Mary designed!  
Go Team!



Thank you, Mary, for sharing your fun with us!

Dawn divided her Wild Strawberries and Nodding Onions for both Mary's project and her own Curbside Strawberry and Onion Patch-- below left!

AND gifted this AWESOME Tea Towel which has animal shapes galore! [Octagonarts.org!](http://Octagonarts.org)



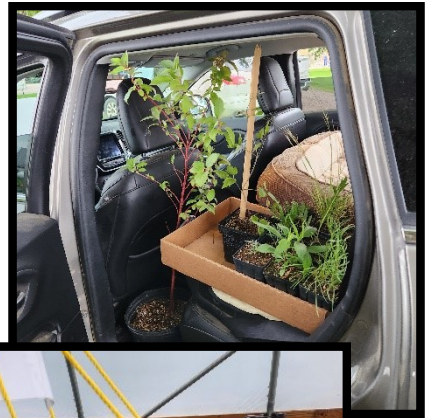
In the enlargement, can you find the swallowtail butterfly? We did-- but it took us a LONG time!







Danielle, Lilly, Ruth, Marc, Tracy, Dawn, and Nelle all headed NORTH to Rock Valley to check out the Open House at Siouxland Prairie Farms! It was GREAT fun and we brought home a LOT of new-- to us-- Native plants and shrubs!



Troy, Sarah, and little Mason were GREAT hosts and we learned SO much!

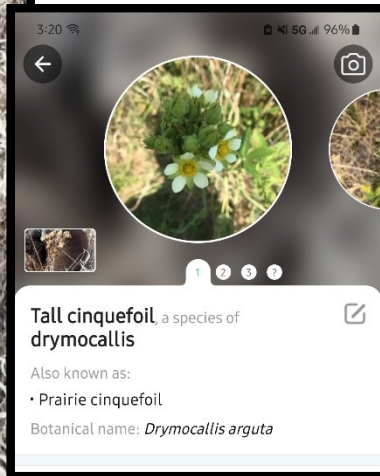


What a nice space for little Mason to learn about Native Plants while enjoying his swing!



← We bought a baby Tall Cinqufoil and we are hoping to have seed pods like the ones Nelle showed us at Flathers-Wetmore Prairie!

We bought a Virgin's Bower Clematis for 'The Flower House'!



Click any photo for various links!

We bought a baby Blue Vervain like the one Dawn and I spotted at Deer Lake-Below!

We snagged the ONLY Prairie Turnip—and we felt a little guilty...



← We bought a baby Loco Weed like the one we found at Dotty and Bills!



We can hardly wait to see these grow!!





← Sarah showed us how to double check that any plants we purchase or any seeds we grow of Anise Hyssop are actually true Natives as there are NON-Native Look-alikes! Hers—grown from seed from a reputable source—were NOT! She is NOT selling these plants—She has earned our trust!

Check out this awesome printable—Click for link! →

We studied it closely and then set out for some Citizen Science Research on our OWN plants!

SOME of ours seedlings and plants were NOT Natives --even though the seed and plant sources were Native professionals!



Tom... using my grandfather's microscope. 😊

MMS 8:03 AM

MMS 8:03 AM

COOOOOLLLLLL



**BUYER BEWARE!**

Three native plant species have non-native lookalikes that have infiltrated the native plant trade.

**Agastache foeniculum vs. Agastache rugosa**

Common names:

- *Agastache foeniculum*: anise hyssop, blue giant hyssop, lavender hyssop
- *Agastache rugosa*: Korean hyssop, Korean mint, blue licorice, purple giant hyssop, wrinkled giant hyssop, etc.

Both species have leaves that smell of fennel when crushed. Both will freely reseed, but *A. rugosa* is especially successful at spreading by seed, and seeds will continue to germinate for years even after you've eliminated it from your garden beds.

Some native plant sellers have not removed seed of *A. rugosa* from their seed mixes of prairie species. Ask before you buy!



photo courtesy of Michael Lynch



In both photos, NATIVE *Agastache foeniculum* is on the left, NON-NATIVE *Agastache rugosa* is on the right.

**ABOVE – leaf upper surface.**

*A. foeniculum* (NATIVE, on the left) has sharper teeth on the margin and a darker, glossier leaf surface.

*A. rugosa* (NON-NATIVE, on the right) has rounder teeth on the margin and a duller leaf surface. The more heart-shaped leaf base is also diagnostic.

The difference in leaf size won't always be diagnostic. Lower leaves on *A. foeniculum* may get quite large.

**LEFT – leaf undersides.**

*A. foeniculum* (NATIVE, on the left) has tangled hairs so densely matted that the underside of the leaf is barely visible.

*A. rugosa* (NON-NATIVE, on the right) has less dense hairs, often concentrated along the veins. You can also see areoles (round indentations) dotting the surface.

Usually the lower surface of *A. foeniculum* will be whitish or grey from the dense mat of hairs, but this may not be the case early in the growing season.

Be aware that native *Agastache scrophulariifolia* (purple giant hyssop) resembles both of these but lacks the fennel scent. The sepals beneath the petals are green, not purplish as in the other species. See MinnesotaWildflowers.info for images.

Tom said the 100+ year old microscope was not the best...but it is an heirloom, literally!!

Tom and Cheri's Anise Hyssop is a true Native!

It has a really hairy underside of smooth white!

Yippee!!!!

They have extras they will share!

←Here's one of mine that was NOT Native even though it was purchased originally from a Native Plant Nursery!

It had heart shaped leaves—Far left--

← AND--The underside had the round indentations you see in the zoomed in phone photo-- called areoles. Drats Drats Drats...

Dawn ran down to Mulhalls right away, checked closely, and found a replacement for this plant! Thank you, Dawn!

*Wishing you a week filled with "Playing and Planting!"*

