

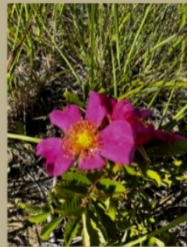
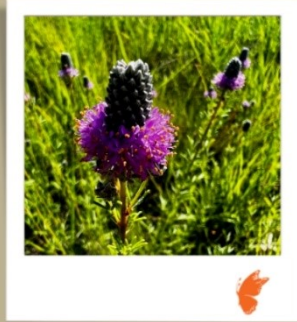
Weekly Wild Wednesday

February 5th, 2025

What a Week of "Wild Programs!"

GERMINATING DIFFICULT SEEDS with ROD TONDREAU

Saturday, February 8
10AM
Dorothy Pecaut
Nature Center



We can hardly wait for THIS SATURDAY'S PROGRAM at the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center!

EARLIER TIME than usual, starts at 10AM!

Check out the details below!

Learn about starting your own native grass and wildflower seeds on Saturday, February 8 and 10:00 am at the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center.

This program will review the seed germination requirements for native grasses and wildflowers.

Examples of some of the more difficult seeds to start will be discussed. The presentation will be by Rod Tondreau, Professor of Biology, Western Iowa Tech Biology

Department. The program is co-sponsored by Loess Hills Wild Ones and Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center. The free program is open to the public.

Danielle made this AWESOME Tabling Board!
Come check it out in person this Saturday!



← Prairie Moon has a whole selection of NEW seeds and plants

Click to check out their selections!

And...drum roll...If you'd rather pick out your OWN plants and support Loess Hills Wild Ones--

Mark your calendar for our Loess Hills Wild Ones Local Native Plant Sale- The weekend of May 16-18th!

At the 'Wild Mess in Progress', we are propagating Prairie Willow cuttings and fermenting Prairie Rose Hips! For the Rose Hips, harvested at Bill and Dotty's, we soaked the freshly picked hips overnight.

Then we used the highly professional Squish and Stir method to free the seeds!

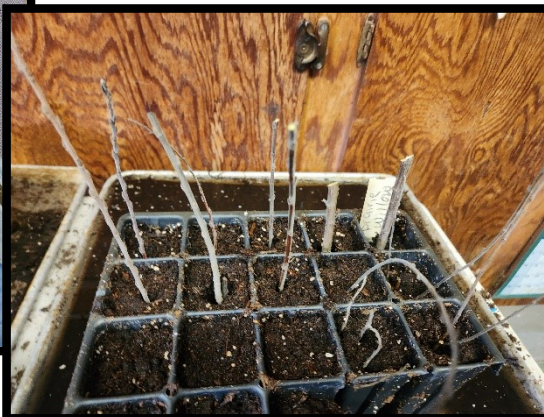
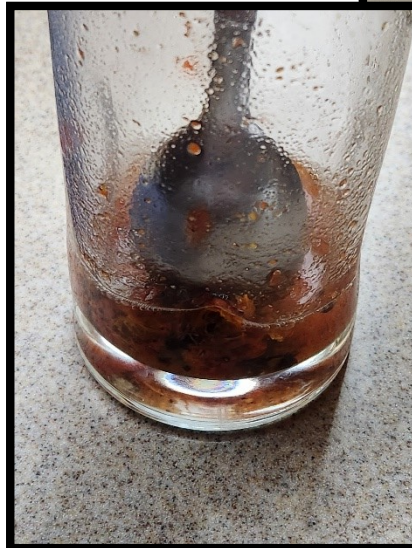
We soaked those freed seeds for another overnight, and sowed them on VERY DAMP soil.



Half will go into the non-heated greenhouse to freeze and thaw cycle on their own, while the other half will stay indoors in an indirect light exposure that stays above 40 degrees.

Wish us luck on the Rose experiments!

On the Prairie Willows, we dipped this set of freshly harvested cuttings in rooting compound from a local nursery, cut 10 inch stems, and planted them in a loose soil mix. Fingers crossed! ← Backpack!



Cuttings →

PRAIRIE MOON NURSERY
SEEDS | PLANTS | SEED MIXES | TOOLS | CATALOG REQUEST

NEW!

We carry over 700 native species, many not found elsewhere. Try something new in your garden this spring. PRE-ORDER NOW - WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

NEW Seeds & Plants for 2025



NEW! LEAFY PRAIRIE CLOVER
This dainty beauty is on the brink of extinction due to habitat loss. It likes well-drained soil and short, well-mannered neighboring plants.
3-Pack Pots * \$21

[BUY LEAFY PRAIRIE CLOVER](#)



NEW! PINK TURTLEHEAD
Listed as rare throughout much of its native range, this show-stopper thrives in light shade and moist soils. A bumblebee magnet.
Packet to Ounce * \$3.50 to \$60

[BUY PINK TURTLEHEAD](#)

On Writing

Posted by [Chris Helzer](#)

Writing is a difficult task, even for those of us who do a lot of it. One of the most important components of good writing is preparation. It's vitally important to have a plan before starting. An outline, for example, that lays out the main points, arranged in a logical order, can help ensure your writing will be organized, cogent, and easy to follow.



This 3-year-old photo of a damsel bug (Nabidae) on foxtail barley (*Hordeum jubatum*) has become one of my favorites.

Chris' HILARIOUS tongue in cheek post had us roaring!

Click either photo if you LOVE irony!



Doesn't it look like this frog has a bubble beard? Hilarious.

For example, a writer who is just winging it will often lose track of their story and put thoughts completely out of order. In especially egregious cases, they might forget to remove paragraphs they wrote before fully settling on a topic and then fail to catch the error during a rushed proofreading attempt, possibly because they're on deadline, perhaps self-imposed, and place speed above quality.

Grow, Chris!

Below, click either photo for more information on Native Plant Day 2025!

Our own Danielle and Bill will be presenting!!

Thank you John!



Native Plant Day

Plants, Design, Prairie, and Conservation

Free & Open to All!

Register for any or all sessions.

- 10 AM- Native Plants – Troy and Sarah Davelaar, Siouxland Prairie Farm
- 11 AM- Residential Landscaping with Native Plants – Danielle Metzger, Wild Ones Loess Hills
- 1 PM- Creating or Rehabilitating a Prairie – Bill and Dotty Zales and Bev Rutter, Prairie Flower
- 2 PM- Integrating Prairie Strips on Farms – Tim Youngquist, ISU Agricultural Specialist

Lunch will be on your own at 12 PM. A list of local restaurants will be provided.

Register by February 27, 2025.

Register at: <https://go.iastate.edu/NATIVEDAY2025> or call (712) 737-4230

Sponsored by ISU Extension and Outreach, Sioux, Lyon, Osceola, O'Brien County

This distribution is an equal opportunity provider for the full non-discrimination statement or accommodation inquiries, see <https://www.iastate.edu/extension/2025/02/27/native-plant-day-2025/>

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

Horticulture

Register Here

Native plants benefit everything, everyone

Native plants mastered drought, heavy rain, diseases, hot and cold weather and more centuries ago. These low maintenance wonders benefit the soil, attract pollinators, stop erosion and bring joy to people and animals who have contact with them.

Master Gardeners from ISU Extension and Outreach, Region 1, are sponsoring a Native Day on Saturday, March 1, to provide a range of information for everyone from town residents to farmers. People can register for one or all four sessions. Attendance is free.

10 a.m. - Native plants - A look at the characteristics of plants native to Iowa and northwest Iowa in particular. Presented by Troy and Sarah Davelaar, Siouxland Prairie Farm.

11 a.m. - Residential landscaping with native plants. Danielle Metzger, Wild Ones - Loess Hills chapter, will talk about designs that especially enhance attracting pollinators and the benefits of doing that.

Noon - Lunch break on own. Local restaurant list will be available.

1 p.m. - Creating or rehabilitating a prairie. Dr. Bill and Dottie Zales, Westfield, and Bev Rutter, Prairie Flower, Spencer, will discuss their experiences in prairie creation and maintenance.

2 p.m. - ISU is a leader in research on integrating prairie strips on farmland for conservation and other purposes. Tim Youngquist, ISU agricultural specialist, will speak on the many benefits and how to create strips. In addition to the presentations, literature will be available from a number of organizations that promote prairie plantings. Several organizations will also have representatives present.

This casual event will be in the downstairs meeting rooms of the Extension office at 400 Central Ave. NW, Orange City. Use the east building entrance. This event is free and open to everyone. Online registration is available at <https://go.iastate.edu/NATIVEDAY2025> or people may call 712-737-4230.

Wishing you a week filled with "Wild Programs!"

