Greenhouse Growing

Native seeds

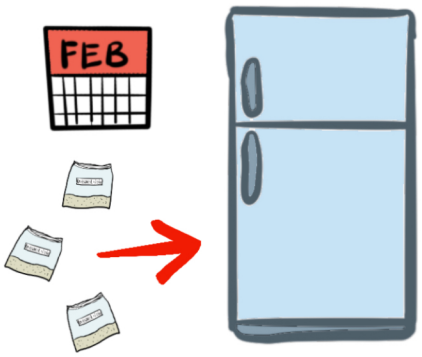
Sand County Foundation

Pollinator Habitat Education Program

STEP 1 JANUARY — BEGIN STRATIFICATION

- add sterilized play sand or silica sand and native seeds to a plastic baggie (a few big pinches)
- add water and mix until it is a cookie dough consistency (not dripping wet)
- label with species and date

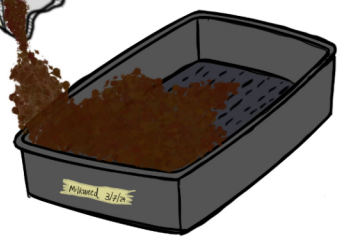
STEP 2 FEBRUARY — COLD STORAGE



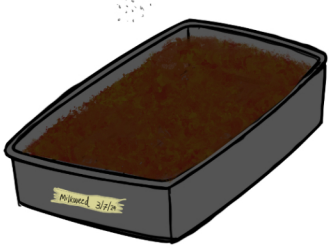
- immediately after step one, place seeds into cold storage for at least 30 DAYS to break dormancy (35°F - 40°F)
- refrigerator or unheated garage will work

STEP 3 MARCH — GERMINATE

- add premoistened soil to a tray with drainage holes, nested in a tray without holes
- Lightly tamp down



- pull seeds out of storage, and sprinkle mixture evenly over the surface
- sprinkle a small amount of soil over the seeds (no more than the width of the seed!)



- place in a sunny, warm location and keep MOIST (not waterlogged) until they sprout. Water gently.
- Optional: cover with a clear plastic dome - remove immediately once sprouted to prevent mold.

STEP 4 APRIL — UPSHIFT

- once the first set of true leaves appear, gently seperate seedlings

- fill a pot with premoistened soil, make a hole, put 1 seedling in, and gently 'tuck in'. Label, place in a tray, water gently. REPEAT!
- Continue greenhouse care for 2+ weeks

STEP 5 MAY — TRANSPLANT

- once the danger of frost has passed, place seedlings outdoors for a few days to 'harden off'

- outside, in a weed-free spot, dig a hole deeper + wider than the pot
- squeeze the pot, tip upside down, and gently remove the seedling
- place in the hole, 'tuck in', water, and REPEAT
- plant species in groups of 3-5 so pollinators can 'see' them, 1 ft. spacing