

Starting Native Plants from Seed

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University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
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Cooperative Extension Service



Seed Stratification

- » The process of exposing seeds to cold and moist conditions to encourage germination
- » In nature, the stratification process takes place when fallen seeds overwinter underground or beneath a layer of snow.





Common Varieties



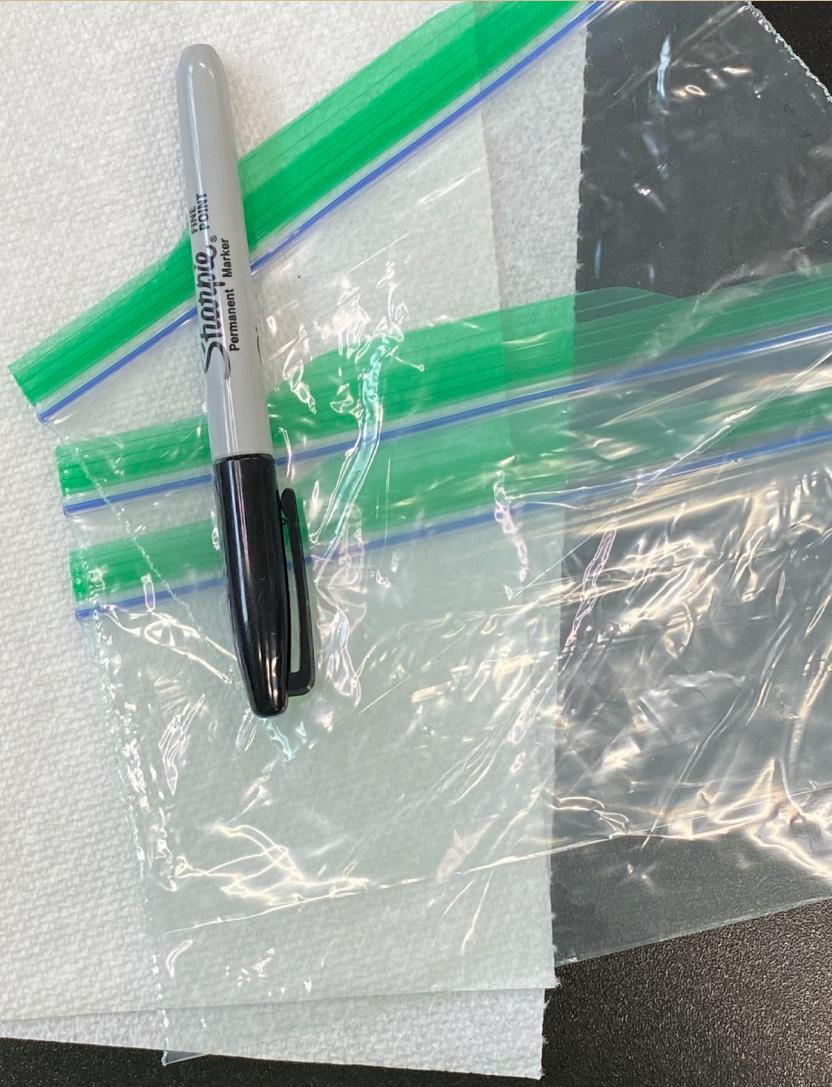
PHOTO: JUSTIN MEISSEN

Species that need Stratification

- Milkweed (*Asclepias*)
- Lupine (*Lupinus*)
- St. John's Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)
- Prairie Coneflower (*Ratibida*)
- Prairie Violet (*Viola pedatifida*)
- Pincushion Flower (*Scabiosa*)
- Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*)
- Perennial Sunflowers (*Helianthus*)
- Wild Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*)
- Rudbeckia (most varieties)
- Coneflower (some varieties)
- Soapwort (*Saponaria ocymoides*)
- Primrose (*Oenothera speciosa*)
- Larkspur (*Delphinium*)
- Shooting Star (*Dodecatheon meadia*)
- False Sunflower (*Heliopsis*)
- Lavender/Hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*)
- Ironweed (*Vernonia gigantea*)



Materials



- Seeds
- Vermiculite and/or Peat Moss
- Paper Towels
- Water
- Plastic zip-top bags
- A Sharpie or pen for labeling
- Mixing bowls
- Refrigerator



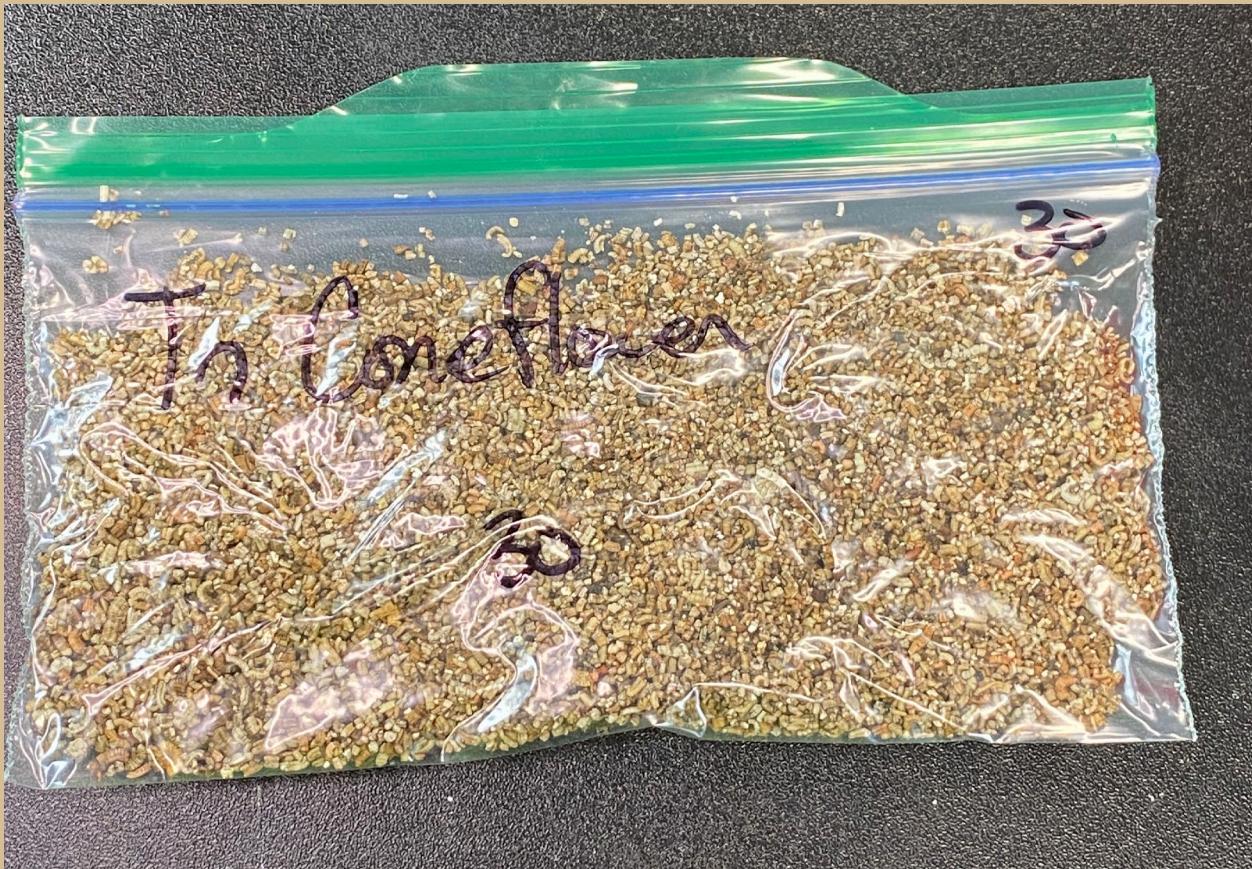
Procedure:

1. Place medium in a bowl and add water to dampen.
2. Add your desired seed amount to the media. Mix thoroughly.



Procedure:

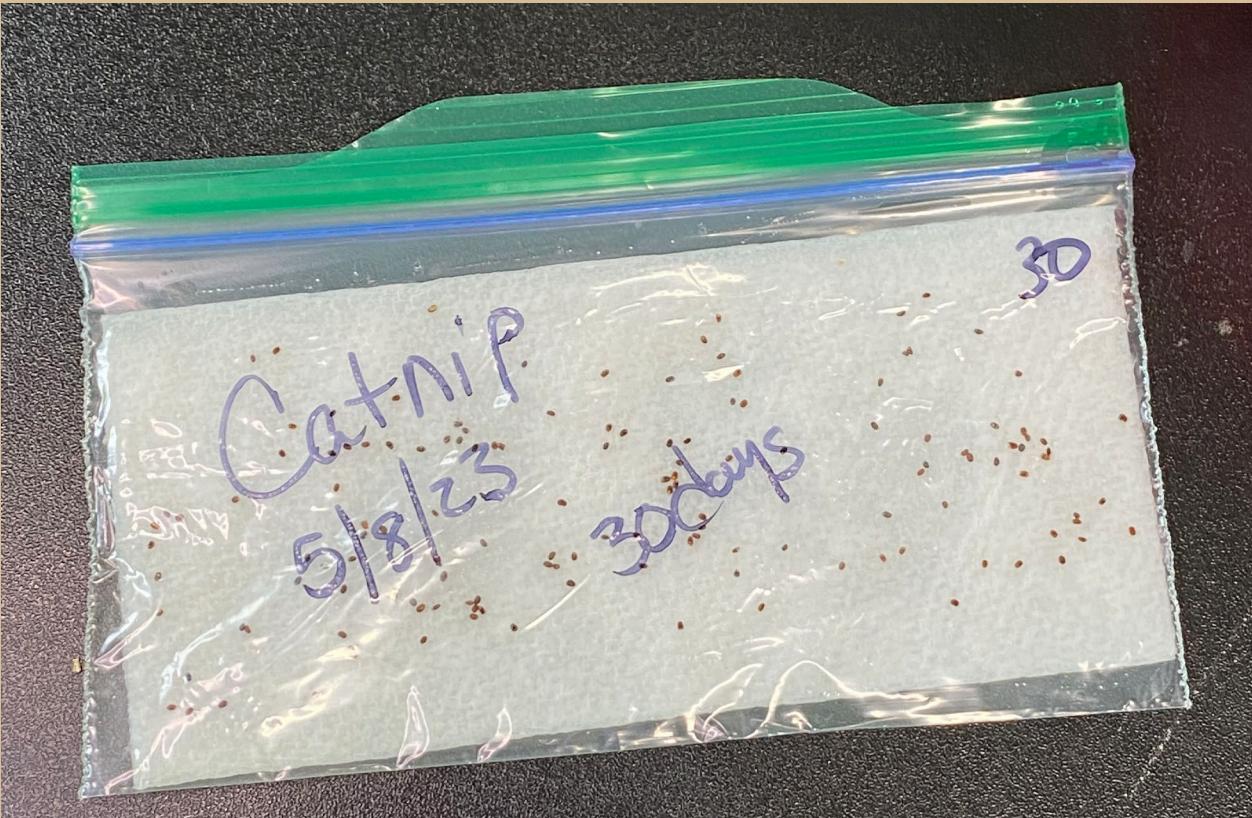
3. Place sand/seed mixture in a zip top bag and seal.
4. Label the variety and date clearly on the bag.



Procedure:

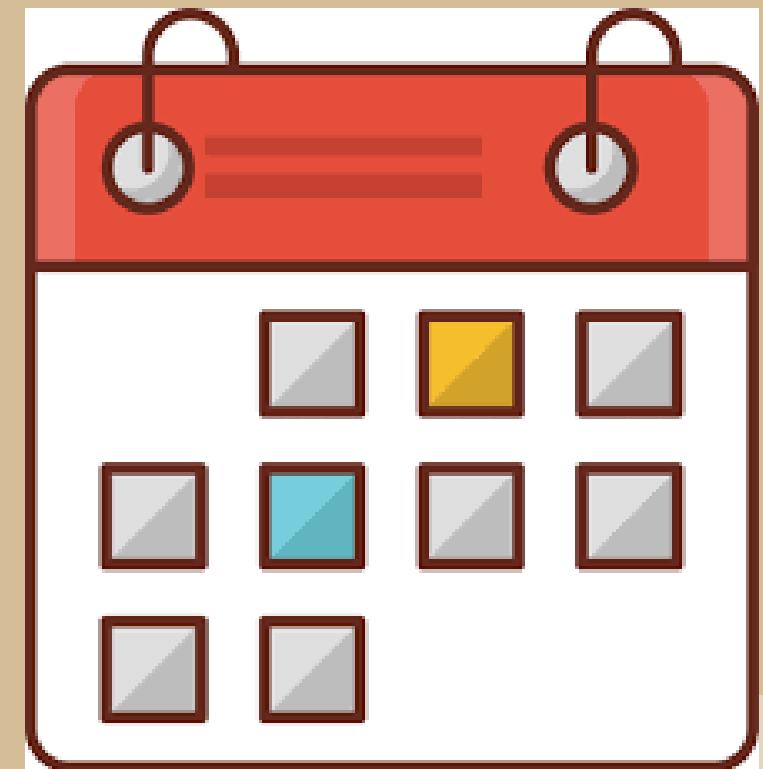
5. Place in the refrigerator for as least 1 month (up to 3 months) before planting.

If seedlings start to sprout in the bag in the refrigerator, remove immediately and either plant in the ground or in pots until it's time to plant outdoors.



REMEMBER!

Write the planting date
on the calendar!



When time's up...



PLANT!



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Starting Seedlings



Start those seeds just like
vegetable seeds!



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Questions?

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