



STORING

- Store seeds in an airtight jar in the refrigerator until you are ready to sow.

SOWING

Germination codes 1, 3, and 4

Many species on our list germinate in 15 to 45 days

- Sow as early as March or April, or anytime during the growing season, in plastic pots filled with a commercial seed-starting mix.
- Place pot of sown seeds in a well-ventilated, warm spot with bright, indirect light.
- Protect pot from rain.

WATERING

Always water seeds by this method!

- Place entire pot in a shallow tray of water. When the soil mix surface is moist, remove pot from water and allow it to drain.
- Check pots daily to see if they need watering. They should not dry out or be kept soggy.
- Monitor seeds regularly; this early stage is important to survival.

TRANSPLANTING

- Transplant seedlings into separate pots when they are large enough to handle (usually after two or three pairs of true leaves emerge).
- Plant seedlings in their permanent garden locations after roots are established but before they are potbound.

FERTILIZING

- For more vigorous seedlings, fertilize with routine applications of an organic, water-soluble fertilizer such as fish emulsion at 1/4 to 1/3 the recommended strength during the active growing season.

STRATIFYING

Germination codes 2 and 6

Some seeds from temperate regions must be stratified—that is, exposed to the equivalent of winter conditions through a moist, cold period that provides the required pre-germination treatment. Many stratified seeds germinate in about 30 days. Here's how it works:

- Sow seeds in a plastic pot on slightly moist commercial seed-starting mix.
- Place pot in a sealed plastic bag and store in the refrigerator for 6 to 12 weeks. Time refrigeration period so pots can be removed during the growing season.
- Take pots out of refrigerator, remove plastic bag, water as described above, and place them in a warm, bright spot. Alternatively, you may sow any seeds needing stratification in a pot in late fall or winter and leave the pot outside. These are the very conditions that we seek to recreate in the refrigerator!

In a pinch it is good to remember that many seeds will germinate at a low percentage even if you ignore each and every one of the rules (except the one about keeping them moist). Best of luck!

GERMINATION CODES

- 1 - No pre-treatment necessary
- 2 - Stratification required
- 3 - Soak seeds 8 hours in warm water before sowing
- 4 - Do not cover these very fine seeds when sowing
- 5 - Sow seeds directly in garden
- 6 - Seeds require 1 to 3 months of warm stratification followed by 1 to 3 months of cold stratification
- 7 - Sow uncovered on moist milled sphagnum, wrap pot in saran wrap and place in bright light

SEED GERMINATION & PERENNIAL GARDENING REFERENCES

The American Woodland Garden,
Rick Darke. 2002. Timber Press, Portland, OR.

Armitage's Native Plants for North American Gardens,
Allan Armitage. 2006. Timber Press, Portland, OR.

The Encyclopedia of Grasses for Livable Landscapes,
Rick Darke. 2007. Timber Press, Portland, OR.

Gardening with Native Plants of the South,
Sally Wasowski. 1994. Taylor Trade Publishing, Lanham, MD.

Gardening with Native Wild Flowers,
Samuel B. Jones & Leonard E. Foote. 1990. Timber Press, Portland, OR.

Growing and Propagating Showy Native Woody Plants,
Richard Bir. 1992. University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill.

Growing and Propagating Wild Flowers,
Harry Phillips. 1985. University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill.

Hartmann and Kester's Plant Propagation: Principles & Practices,
Hudson Hartmann, Robert Geneve, Dale Kester, Fred Davies. 2001. Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs, NJ.

Herbaceous Perennial Plants,
Allan Armitage. 1997. Stipes Publishing, Champaign, IL.

Invasive Plants: Weeds of the Global Garden,
John Randall and Janet Marinelli, eds. 1996. Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn, NY.

The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden,
Rick Darke and Doug Tallamy. 2014. Timber Press, Portland, OR.

Manual of Herbaceous Ornamental Plants,
Steven M. Still. 1994. Stipes Publishing, Champaign, IL.

Manual of Woody Landscape Plants,
Michael A. Dirr. 1998. Stipes Publishing, Champaign, IL.

Native Perennials,
Nancy Beaubaire, ed. 1996. Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn, NY

Native Plants of the Southeast: A Comprehensive Guide to the Best 460 Species for the Garden, Larry Mellichamp. 2014. Timber Press, Portland, OR.

Native Trees, Shrubs, and Vines,
William Cullina. 2002. Houghton Mifflin, Boston.

The New England Wildflower Society Guide to Growing & Propagating Wildflowers of the US & Canada,
William Cullina. 2000. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston.

Perennial Combinations,
C. Colston Burrell. 1999. Rodale Press, Emmaus, PA.

The Reference Manual of Woody Plant Propagation,
Michael A. Dirr and Charles W. Heuser Jr. 1987. Varsity Press, Athens, GA.

Seed Germination Theory and Practice,
Norman C. Deno. 1993. Self-published: 139 Lenor Dr., State College, PA.

Seeds of Wildland Plants,
James and Cheryl Young. 1986. Timber Press, Portland, OR.

Seeds of Woody Plants in North America,
James and Cheryl Young. 1992. Dioscorides Press, Portland, OR.

Wildflowers—A Gardener's Encyclopedia of,
C. Colston Burrell. 1997. Rodale Press, Emmaus, PA.

Wyman's Gardening Encyclopedia,
Donald Wyman. 1986. MacMillan Publishing, New York.