



BORDERLANDS NURSERY & SEED

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Native Forb, Sub-Shrub, Shrub & Tree Seed Germination Guide

Warm-Season Forbs: Warm-season forbs (those that do the most growing, flowering and fruiting with the summer rains) prefer to be planted when soil temperatures are 75-80°F during the day. The best time of year to plant them is with the summer rainy season. Be careful to mulch or otherwise anchor the seeds so they don't wash away with the summer rains. If you want to start the seeds earlier, start them in small pots on a heat mat in partial shade.

Help the germination process by soaking your seeds in warm water for 24 hours before sowing. Sow seeds at a depth equivalent to 4x the diameter of the seed with a well-draining soil media. If direct sowing outside, cover with a thin layer of sand, soil, or mulch.

Cool-Season Forbs: Cool season forbs (those that do the most growing with winter rains and flower in the early spring) prefer to be planted during the fall. Be careful to plant seeds after the danger of large summer storms has passed, as these storms can wash away the seed. The seeds will germinate in the fall/winter and grow slowly all season to flower in the spring.

Help the germination process by soaking your seeds in warm water for 24 hours before sowing. Sow seeds at a depth equivalent to 4x the diameter of the seed with a well-draining soil media. If direct sowing outside, cover with a thin layer of sand, soil, or mulch.

Sub-Shrubs, Shrubs, and Trees: Sub-shrubs (almost-shrubs), shrubs, and trees native to our area often need to experience a cold, wet winter period before they will germinate. You can simulate this process by "stratifying" your seed:

1. Soak your seed in warm water for 24 hours.
2. Mix your seed with moist soil and place in a plastic bag.
3. Place your plastic bag in the fridge for 30-90 days.
4. After 30 days, check your seed weekly for germination and sow right away if you see seeds starting to germinate!

Sow seeds at a depth equivalent to 4x the diameter of the seed with a well-draining soil media. If direct sowing outside, cover with a thin layer of sand, soil, or mulch.

If you have any questions regarding your native seed, don't hesitate to contact us!