

Why Plant Native Wildflowers?

Downeast Lakes Land Trust Online Learning

Native plants serve many functions in their ecosystems. They provide nutrition for native insects, birds, and other herbivores. These plants also provide shelter and protection for a wider array of animals like reptiles, birds, and mammals. Some of these animals called “pollinators” help return the favor like butterflies and hummingbirds who help in plant reproduction. For more information about wildflowers

and pollinators contact your local environmentally focused organizations like land trusts and nature centers or plant nurseries.

Below is a step by step guide to starting seeds indoors so your backyard garden can be pollinator ready for spring!



Starting Seeds Indoors

- ◇ Get your seeds from a reliable source to make sure your garden will be full of native plants.
- ◇ Put in a pot with seed-starting mix at the proper depth for your chosen plants. Make sure the pot has drainage holes to prevent accidental overwatering issues.
- ◇ Keep the seeds in a warm location and make sure the soil is damp.
- ◇ When the seedlings emerge, place the pot in a location that will get sunlight and keep the seedling at about room temperature.
- ◇ Add fertilizer weekly.
- ◇ When the weather is looking consistently warm enough, plant the plants outside. Make sure to note what the package says before planting as some have suggested guidelines for that specific plant.
- ◇ When planting outside remember to consider factors like how much the appropriate amount of sunlight is for this plant and how water tolerant it is.