



Native plant seed-starting kit instructions

(Fall 2020)

Listed below are the simple steps to take this fall, through winter and into spring to grow native plants at home. You can also watch the related webinar any time by clicking [here](#). In addition, Project Swallowtail staff will be in touch at crucial times to remind you of necessary actions. Don't worry – it is a very simple process, requiring minimal effort. Thank you and have fun!

Fall (early November):

- Collect your supplies: plastic tray with holes in bottom, potting soil, mesh cover and native seed
- Add soil to the kit, to a few millimeters from the top, and pat down lightly.
- Open seed packet and carefully distribute seed across soil, as evenly as possible.
- Lightly cover seed with no more than 2 millimeters of soil. (It is best to crumble the soil in your hands.)
- Mist the soil with a spray bottle.
- Flatten your mesh cover as best you can, using weights if necessary.
- Bend the edges of your mesh cover, making use of the small cuts made at each corner. It is easiest to bend the long sides first, and then the short sides. You can wear gloves to prevent any scratches to your hands.
- Place mesh cover over the tray.
- Place kit in your backyard or on your balcony, away from any pet or foot traffic, and place dry crumbled leaves on top, if you have some. Ideally, choose a location that will get some rain and snow.

Winter:

- Collect and store for future use about 30 plastic pots, or containers that can be used as pots. Old yogurt or sour cream containers work well if you drill holes in their bottoms.

Early spring (late-March to April):

- Gently remove leaves from top of tray.
- Monitor soil for sprouts.
- Spritz soil regularly to keep it moist, but do not over-water. Monitor daily.

Spring (May to June):

- Spritz soil regularly to keep it moist, but do not over-water.
- Thin and transplant seedlings once they are 5 to 8 centimeters tall. (This will happen at different times for different species.)
- Place seedlings in 4-inch pots (or reused containers with holes) and continue to water carefully. (You will need more soil for this step, and you may want to add a slow-release fertilizer or compost to the pots.)
- If necessary, protect small plants (with weak roots) from squirrels.
- Connect with Project Swallowtail staff regarding plant success and distribution.

Comments and questions regarding these kits and anything else related to Project Swallowtail can be sent to admin@projectswallowtail.ca.