

Part Sun-Part Shade-Moist Native Perennial Garden Kit

For garden areas with less than 6 hours of sun per day; no standing water or saturated soil, can be irrigated during long, dry periods.



Long-beaked sedge *Carex sprengelii*

Height: 18" – 24" grows in fine textured, gracefully arching clumps, bright green

Spacing at planting: 18" – 24"

Flower period: May. Ripening seed heads are attractive

Seed collection: July – August. Seed is ready to collect when it falls away into your hand when gently pulled. You should collect at least some of the seed if you don't want to encourage more long-beaked sedge plants near current ones.

Propagation: Seed should be sown fresh, immediately, rather than stored. This seed needs light to germinate and should not be covered. Germination will occur the following spring. Long-beaked sedge will spread naturally from dropped seed if there is open ground. It does not invade turf or other dense plantings because the seed needs open ground and light to germinate. If you find more new little seedlings than you want the following year, the new seedlings can be easily dug and transplanted or put in the compost or you can give them to another gardener.

Notes on care: Will tolerate short dry periods, but should be watered occasionally in prolonged drought. Best to wait until late winter/early spring to trim back last year's tan leaves because they provide a good buffer from frost heaving for the sedge roots. They also provide good cover for soil life and thereby provide food for ground-foraging birds in those lean winter and early spring months. Tan leaves can be pulled off gently or trimmed back with sharp hand snips. They make a clean soil mulch or can be composted. If you happen to find a vole nest in *Carex sprengelii* clumps over the winter, you may want to trim the "skirt" of longest tan leaves back to create openings between plants. Voles can cause problems for woody stems nearby.



Foxglove Beardtongue *Penstemon digitalis*

Height: 18" – 24" Flower stems get 3' high. The deep green leaves are clustered in a dense, rounded basal rosette.

Spacing at planting: 18" – 24"

Flower period: May – June. Multiple, showy, 1" long, tubular white flowers on tall stems are pollinated mostly by small and medium sized bees. Sphinx moths and hummingbirds may visit the flowers to sip nectar. Though they are not effective pollinators, they are a thrill to watch.

Seed collection: Sept. Plants produce numerous tiny brown seeds in multiple, small, hard-shelled seed capsules that are quite attractive in their own right and hold for several weeks.

Propagation: Foxglove Beardtongue readily self-seeds, even aggressively in a home garden ornamental planting bed with open spaces. It is a good idea to cut off the seed heads once they are fully ripe to avoid too many new seedlings in subsequent years. Either sow the seeds elsewhere or give to friend. The hard-shelled capsules can't be opened with your bare hands. You can either crush them with a rock or a hammer first or just sow them intact with seeds inside. Unwanted new baby seedlings that appear from self-seeding are easy to dig up and they transplant well. Even mature plants readily accept transplanting when need be. There is no deep tap root, the most important impediment to successful transplanting. The root system has short rhizomes, which often produce new plantlets around the base. These new plantlets can be left to take over after the older, center parent plant weakens, or they can be cut off and transplanted.

Notes on care: When not closely surrounded by neighboring plants, Foxglove Beardtongue flower stalks may need a single thin stake to hold it upright during the long flower period.



Wild Geranium *Geranium maculatum* (also called Cranesbill)

Height: 18" – 24"

Spacing at planting: 18" – 24"

Flower period: April – June. Pinkish purple flowers, bees and butterflies pollinate.

Seed collection: early August. After blooming, distinctive fruit capsules are produced 3-5 weeks later. Each capsule consists of a long, central beak-like column (resembling a crane's head) and five basal cells, each containing one seed. When it is ripe, the beak-like capsule opens by curling and expels the seeds more than 10 feet from the mother plant.

Propagation: Seeds need cold, moist stratification to break dormancy, so either sow them after collecting or sow in fall, whenever your intended space for them is ready. If you need to wait to sow them until the following spring, seeds must be cold, moist stratified in the refrigerator for at least 60 days. Mix the seeds with damp sand in a Ziploc bag, keep in the refrigerator, turning the bag occasionally. Sow before May 1.

Notes on care: Wild geranium has lovely dissected leaves, and it readily spreads, forming stunning patches. Mostly found in woodlands in the wild, it does just as well in part sun in gardens as long as it gets enough water. In fact, plants flower more prolifically the more sun they receive. This species will naturalize under optimum growing situations but is never invasive. Under moist conditions, leaves will remain green throughout the season, but the foliage may yellow or go summer dormant if the soil dries out. It is a good idea to interplant with fall asters and ferns for fall filler. Despite their common name, scented geraniums and garden geraniums are unrelated to the true geranium, *Geranium maculatum*. They are, rather, members of the *Pelargonium* genus.