

Seedling Planning for Planting Schedule

Community pots are an excellent way to grow native plants from seed and keep your plants protected from the elements while they are particularly vulnerable. Through our Bona Terra Plant Grant, we aim to bring native seedlings to our community in our effort to help support our local ecosystems. This guide gives Bona Terra Plant Grantees a schedule of the best times to pick-up each species, when you can plant directly in the ground, and when it is advised to plant in containers.

This guide is an extension to and companion of the **Bona Terra Seedling Division Guide:**

<https://bonaterradc.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Bona-Terra-General-Seedling-Division-Guide.pdf>. The data derived is a result of Bona Terra's environmental growing standards, which may differ from growers in other regions and other local growers using different nursery practices. The data set listed below is most relevant when applied using the techniques described in the **Bona Terra Seedling Division Guide**.

It is important to remember that plants grow at different rates throughout the year, and not all species are necessarily at their peak growing periods at the same time. We often hear people saying that they are going to wait to pick up their seeded quarts “when they’re all ready.” This time doesn’t exist, and often waiting longer to pick-up the seeded quarts results in the seedling division taking much longer than picking up species as they become available. Adjust your scheduling expectations if you’re interested in the highest planting success rates possible. The difference between dividing the seedlings at their ideal time versus when they are overgrown can result in additional hours of seedling division for fewer individual plants.

Glossary of Terms

Best time to pick up: This is when the seedlings first become available, and are the easiest to separate. You will have the highest number of individual plants, and as the plants tend to be in an active stage of growth, you will have a higher success rate and faster growing period.

Best time for direct to ground planting: This is the time that this species is at its peak growing period, with the highest success rate for planting in ground.

Good time for direct to ground planting: This is still a good time for direct-to-ground planting. This species may need more monitoring (1-3 times a week) for consistent soil moisture typically due to higher air temperatures that increase the plants’ need for water.

Okay time for direct to ground planting: This species can be planted at this time, but expect to have to take more charge to plant at the proper depth when dividing and planting, and expect a reduced success rate.

Do not divide: It is not advised to divide community pots of this species at this time. If you already have your community pot, leave the plants in the container and push mulch around the sides to insulate. Wait for an “okay time to plant” before dividing.

Container planting is advised: Direct to ground planting is always best: containers do not help plants grow as they restrict root growth and plant size. The sole purpose of containers is to make plants portable. At this time of year, when you divide the plants, you may damage the roots causing an imbalance of how much water the plants need and how much water the roots can take up. We advise using containers so you can move your plants into the shade temporarily, thus reducing its water needs while repairing roots damaged during division. This process typically takes 3-14 days. Once they are healed-in and able to be taken out of the containers without damaging the roots, your plants will be happiest planted in the ground.

Need more data: We are still collecting data about this species.

Key

	Best time for direct to ground planting (90-100% success rate)
	Good time for direct to ground planting (80-90% success rate)
	Okay time for direct to ground planting (80-20% success rate)
	Do not divide (<20% success rate)
	Container planting is advised
	Need more data

Herbaceous Species															
Species	Common Name	Best time to pick up	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Notes
Achillea millefolium LE	Yarrow	May													
Ageratina altissima LE	White Snakeroot	April-June													
Agrimonia striata LE	Roadside Agrimony	May-June													
Amsonia tabernaemontana var. salicifolia	Willow Bluestar	June													
Apocynum cannabinum	Dogbane	June													
Aquilegia canadensis	Red Columbine	May													
Asclepias incarnata	Swamp Milkweed	May													
Asclepias syriaca LE	Common Milkweed	May													
Asclepias tuberosa	Butterfly Milkweed	May													
Asclepias verticillata	Whorled Milkweed	May													
Baptisia australis	Blue False Indigo	May-Aug													
Baptisia tinctoria	Yellow Wild Indigo	May													
Bidens aristosa LE	Swamp Marigold	May-June													Annual

Boltonia asteroides	False Aster/Susquehanna Dolls Daisy	April-June													
Chamaecrista fasciculata LE	Partridge Pea	April-June													Annual
Chelone glabra	White Turtlehead	May-Aug													
Chrysopsis mariana LE	Maryland Goldenaster	May-Sept													
Clinopodium vulgare	Wild Basil	April-Oct													
Conoclinium coelestinum LE	Blue Mistflower	April-Aug													
Coreopsis lanceolata	Lanceleaf Coreopsis	April-Sept													
Coreopsis tripteris	Tall Coreopsis	May-Oct													
Desmodium canadense LE	Showy Ticktrefoil	May-Oct													
Echinacea purpurea	Purple Coneflower	April-Nov													
Eryngium yuccifolium	Rattlesnake Master	May-April													
Eupatorium altissimum	Tall Boneset/Giant Ironweed														
Eupatorium capillifolium LE	Dogfennel	May-April													
Eupatorium hyssopifolium LE	Hyssop-leaved Thoroughwort														
Eupatorium perfoliatum	Common Boneset														
Eupatorium rotundifolium LE	Roundleaf Thoroughwort	May-Sept													
Eupatorium serotinum LE	Late Boneset	May-Oct													
Euphorbia corollata	Flowering Spurge	May-June													
Eurybia divaricata	White Wood Aster	April-May													
Euthamia graminifolia	Flat-Top Goldenrod	May-April													
Eutrochium fistulosum LE	Hollow Joe Pye Weed	May-Sept													
Eutrochium maculatum LE	Spotted Joe Pye Weed	May-Sept													
Eutrochium purpureum LE	Purple Joe Pye Weed	May-Sept													

<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	Sneezeweed	April-Oct													
<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	False Sunflower	April-Oct													
<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i> LE	Swamp Rose Mallow	May-Sept													
<i>Hypericum ascyron</i> / <i>Hypericum pyramidatum</i>	Tall St. John's Wort	April-Nov													
<i>Hypericum mutilum</i>	Dwarf St. John's Wort														
<i>Hypericum punctatum</i> LE	Spotted St. John's Wort	April-Sept													
<i>Iris versicolor</i>	Northern Blue Flag Iris	May-April													
<i>Lespedeza virginica</i>	Slender Bush Clover	June-Oct													
<i>Liatris spicata</i>	Dense Gayfeather, Marsh Blazing Star	May-April													
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal Flower	May-Aug													
<i>Lobelia puberula</i> LE	Downy Lobelia														
<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	Great Blue Lobelia	May-Aug													
<i>Ludwigia alternifolia</i> LE	Seedbox	May-April													
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Wild Bergamot	May-Sept													
<i>Monarda punctata</i>	Spotted Beebalm	May-Sept													
<i>Oenothera biennis</i> LE	Evening Primrose	May-April													Biennial
<i>Oenothera laciniata</i> LE	Cutleaf Evening Primrose														Biennial
<i>Oligoneuron rigidum</i>	Stiff Goldenrod	May-April													
<i>Packera aurea</i>	Golden Ragwort	June-May													
<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	Foxglove Beardtongue	May-April													
<i>Penstemon hirsutus</i>	Hairy Beardtongue	April-Oct													
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i> LE	Self-Heal	April-Sept													
<i>Pycnanthemum incanum</i> LE	Hoary Mountain Mint														
<i>Pycnanthemum muticum</i>	Mountain Mint														
<i>Pycnanthemum tenuifolium</i>	Slender Mountain Mint	April-Mar													

Rhexia virginica LE	Virginia Meadow Beauty														
Rudbeckia fulgida	Orange Coneflower	May-Sept													
Rudbeckia hirta	Black-Eyed Susan	June-Sep													
Rudbeckia laciniata	Cutleaf Coneflower	April-Oct													
Rudbeckia triloba	Brown-Eyed Susan	April-Sept													
Solidago altissima	Tall Goldenrod	May-April													
Solidago gigantea	Giant Goldenrod	May-April													
Solidago juncea	Early Goldenrod	May-April													
Solidago odora	Anisescented Goldenrod	May-April													
Solidago rugosa	Wrinkleleaf Goldenrod	May-April													
Solidago speciosa	Showy Goldenrod	May-April													
Solidago uliginosa	Bog Goldenrod	May-April													
Symphyotrichum laeve	Smooth Blue Aster	May-April													
Symphyotrichum lanceolatum LE	Panicled Aster	May-April													
Symphyotrichum lateriflorum LE	Calico Aster	May-April													
Symphyotrichum novae-angliae	New England Aster	May-April													
Symphyotrichum oblongifolium	Aromatic Aster	May-April													
Teucrium canadense LE	American Germander														
Thermopsis caroliniana	Carolina Lupine	May-Nov													
Verbena urticifolia	White Vervain	April-Nov													
Verbesina alternifolia LE	Wingstem	April-Mar													
Verbesina occidentalis LE	Maryland Gold Crown	April-Mar													
Vernonia noveboracensis	New York Ironweed	May-Aug													
Yucca filamentosa	Adam's Needle Yucca	April-Mar													

Tree and Shrub Species															
Species	Common Name	Best time to pick up	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Notes
Amorpha fruticosa	False Indigobush	May-April													
Callicarpa americana	Beautyberry	June-May													
Cephalanthus occidentalis	Buttonbush	May-April													
Hydrangea arborescens LE	Smooth Hydrangea	May-April													
Hypericum prolificum	Shrubby St. John's Wort	May-April													
Sambucus canadensis	Elderberry	April-Mar													
Spiraea alba	White Meadowsweet	May-April													
Spiraea tomentosa	Steeplebush	May-April													
Grass and Sedge Species															
Species	Common Name	Best time to pick up	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Notes
Andropogon virginicus LE	Broom Sedge	May-April													
Chasmanthium latifolium	River Oats	May-April													
Eragrostis spectabilis	Purple Lovegrass	June-Sept													
Panicum anceps LE	Beaked Panicum Grass	May-April													
Panicum virgatum	Switchgrass	May-April													
Schizachyrium scoparium	Little Bluestem	May-April													
Sorghastrum nutans	Gold Spray														
Tridens flavus LE	Purpletop	May-April													