Herbaceous Native Plants: Greenhouse Production

2015 Alternative Crops for Greenhouse & Nursery Growers
Maryland Nursery, Landscape & Greenhouse Association
How is it different?
Differences

1. Adapted to wild survival
Differences

2. Special facilities?
Differences

3. Acquiring wild seed
   • collect or buy?
   • target diversity
   • AOSCA certified seed
Differences

3. Acquiring wild seed
   • geographic origin/availability?
subsp. rolfssii

subsp. interior

subsp. tuberosa
Differences

4. Seed adapted to habitats:
   a. cold winter
   b. floodplains
   c. fire

Sundial lupine, *Lupinus perennis*
   Seeds withstand fire.
Sundial lupines are state-threatened.
5. Maturation 2\textsuperscript{nd} year
Differences

5. Propagation by Cutting – target diversity

Ninebark
Physocarpus opulifolius
Similarities

1. Use fertilizer

Virginia Sweetspires
Itea virginica
Specific Example: Hairy Beardtongue

1. Diversity – wild collection
Specific Example: Hairy Beardtongue

2. Tiny seeds
Specific Example: Hairy Beardtongue

3. Cold Stratification
Specific Example: Hairy Beardtongue

4. Propagation from cuttings

5. Spring conditions
Liner Production of Florida Native Wildflowers by Seed

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Demand for native wildflowers and grasses has increased over the past 15 to 20 years as a result of the surge in interest in use of native species, especially native plants that are adapted to Florida conditions. Growers of native plants are trying to keep up with demand but frequently have to work out production protocols because such information is limited.

In this publication we describe in detail the methods that we have successfully used to produce liners of Florida native wildflowers (Table 1) under greenhouse conditions. Information is based on production of 1-inch" liners that could be sold or used as transplants in 4-inch, 1-qt. or 1-gal. containers (Fig. 1), or they could be transplanted to the field.

While this information is based on our experience with non-varietal germplasm, the methods would be suitable for use with many types of wildflower seeds.

Seeds