

# Native Plants, Seed Collecting, and Winter Sowing

with

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# Kimmeey House Native Plant Garden

*Photos courtesy of Dave Flora*



# Ethical Rules

- Never collect wild plant seeds on public land.
- Always get permission from the landowner.
- Never collect from rare/endangered species.
- Collect only from plants growing abundantly in the area where you are collecting.
- Take at most 1/10 of the seeds. Leave the rest to reseed and perpetuate the stand.

*Take care not to collect and disperse invasive plants.*

# Seed Collecting Guidelines

- Allow time for seeds to mature after flowering
- Choose seeds from multiple and healthy plants
- Collect seeds from the best performers.
- Collect seeds before they disperse naturally.



*Harvest at full maturity*

Cardinal Flower  
*Lobelia cardinalis*



Great Blue Lobelia  
*Lobelia siphilitica*

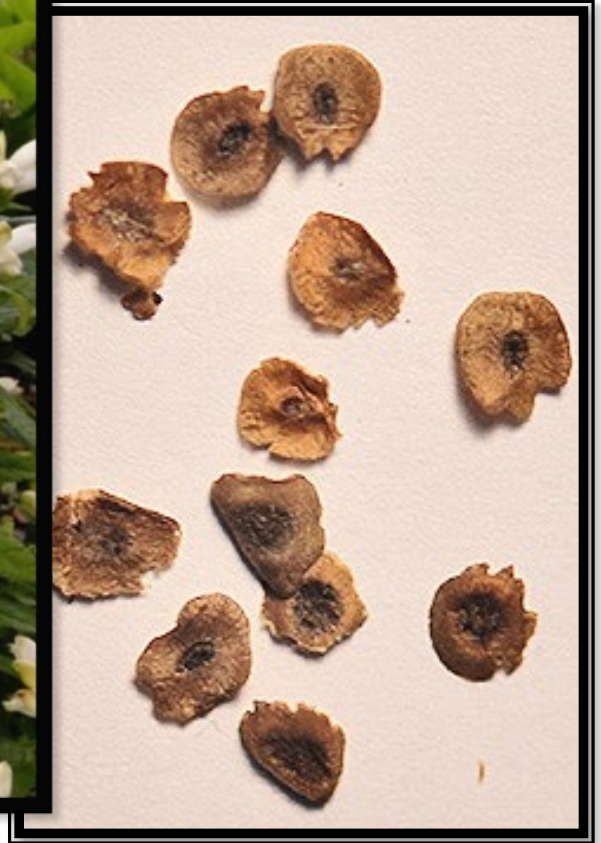


White  
Turtlehead  
*Chelone glabra*



*Flower photos courtesy of Dave Flora.*

# White Turtlehead *Chelone glabra*



*Flower photos courtesy of Dave Flora. Seed photo courtesy of Gary D. Bebeau and [www.friendsofthewildflowergarden.org](http://www.friendsofthewildflowergarden.org)*



# Cardinal Flower

*Lobelia cardinalis*



# Great Blue Lobelia

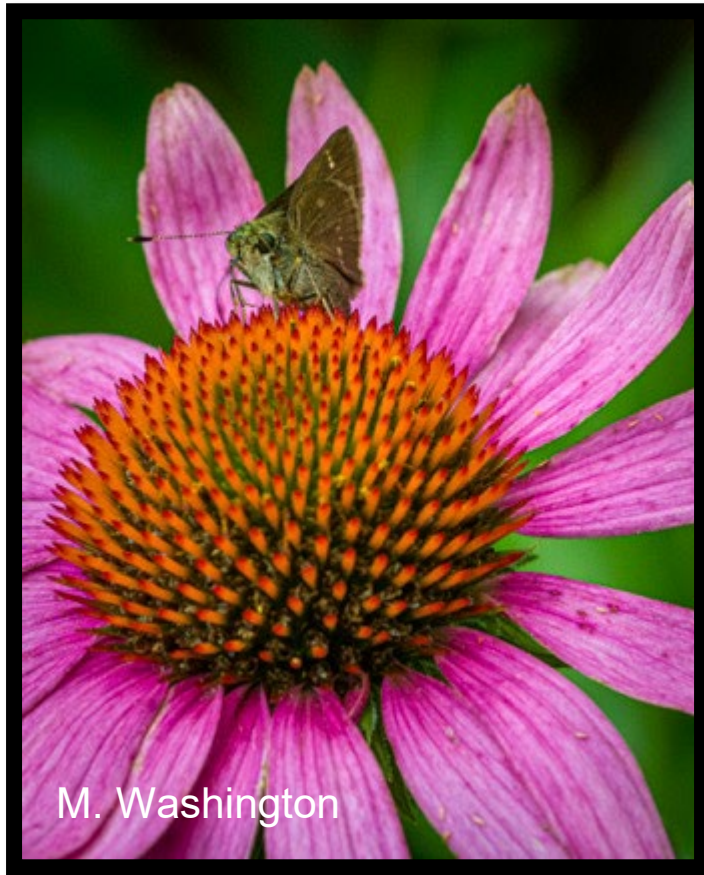
*Lobelia siphilitica*



Seed photos courtesy of [www.minnesotawildflowers.info](http://www.minnesotawildflowers.info) and G. D. Bebeau.

Purple Coneflower  
*Echinacea purpurea*

Brown-eyed Susan  
*Rudbeckia triloba*



Blue False  
Indigo  
*Baptisia  
australis*



# Composite Flowers



*Photos courtesy of Marty Hankins*

# Purple Coneflower *Echinacea purpurea*



*Flower photo courtesy of Michael Washington. Plant and seeds photos courtesy of G. D. Bebeau and [www.friendsofthewildflowergarden.org](http://www.friendsofthewildflowergarden.org)*

# Brown-eyed Susan *Rudbeckia triloba*



*Plant photo courtesy of Dave Flora. Flower photo courtesy of G. D. Bebeau and [www.friendsofthewildflowergarden.org](http://www.friendsofthewildflowergarden.org)*

# Blue False Indigo—*Baptisia australis*



*Flower and seed photos courtesy of G. D. Bebeau and [www.friendsofthewildflowergarden.org](http://www.friendsofthewildflowergarden.org)*

# Conditions

Good – Cool, dry, dark, and pest-proof (*indoors*)



Better – 45-55 F with ~25% humidity. *Airtight* containers that don't allow moisture to enter or build up. (*refridgerator/basement*)

Best – Dried to 5-7% moisture content by weight and stored several degrees below freezing (*freezer*)



Never – Outside or in a shed or greenhouse.



# Containers

- Paper lunch bags, coin/seed envelopes
- plastic ziplocs and containers
- freezer bags (doubled)
- screw-top glass jars and metal tins

*Don't forget labels!*



**Airtight  
Dark  
Pest-Proof**



# Organizing

- Photo albums, recipe boxes, accordion folders, plastic containers



# Concerns (1 & 2)



## 1. Moisture (mold/mildew)



- Airtight container is best
- Insert desiccant and remove after 7 - 8 days (silica gel packet, dry milk, rice)
- Safest to seal in plastic or glass before storing them together so moisture and bacteria can't spread

## 2. Light, heat, and temperature fluctuations

*Wait for containers to reach room temperature before opening to **avoid moisture** from condensation.*



# Concerns(3 & 4)



## 3. Insect infestation & Diseases

- Clean seeds (will eliminate most insect eggs and bacteria)
- Freezing is safest (some insects may survive but rendered inactive)
- Diatomaceous earth (non-toxic and a wise precaution)
- Pesticide/fungicide (common in commercial supplies)



## 4. Rodents, wildlife, children

- Tightly closed glass/metal containers
- Child proof caps and cabinets



*Some plants and their seeds are poisonous.  
Secure them safely away from children and pets.*

<https://www.vecteezy.com/free-vector/mouse>

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Seed swap 20220119.ppt



# Winter Sowing Supplies



- Container
- Box Cutter
- Screwdriver
- Indelible Marker
- Plant label
- Potting Mix
- Water
- Seeds
- Duct Tape



Historical Society of Carroll Co.  
210 East Main Street  
Westminster, MD 21157

# Resources

UNIVERSITY OF  
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[extension.umd.edu/hgic](https://extension.umd.edu/hgic)



[extension.umd.edu/learn/ask-gardening](https://extension.umd.edu/learn/ask-gardening)



[marylandgrows.umd.edu](https://marylandgrows.umd.edu)

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[extension.umd.edu/mg](https://extension.umd.edu/mg)

LOCAL  
PROGRAMS

MASTER GARDENER  
HANDBOOK

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- Bring your plant and pest questions and get answers

[extension.umd.edu/mg/local-programs/ask-master-gardener-plant-clinic](https://extension.umd.edu/mg/local-programs/ask-master-gardener-plant-clinic)

*This program was brought to you by the*



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