

Discover the Joy of Native Plants at Asheville's Annual Seed Swap

BY BRETT HOPKINS



Gardeners and nature lovers are invited to attend the NORTH CAROLINA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY's Annual Native Seed Swap on December 6th at the Asheville Botanical Gardens – a community celebration of ecological stewardship, learning, and friendship. Open to newcomers and enthusiasts, the event aims to help more people incorporate native plants into their landscapes. All ages are welcome and even those without seeds can participate.



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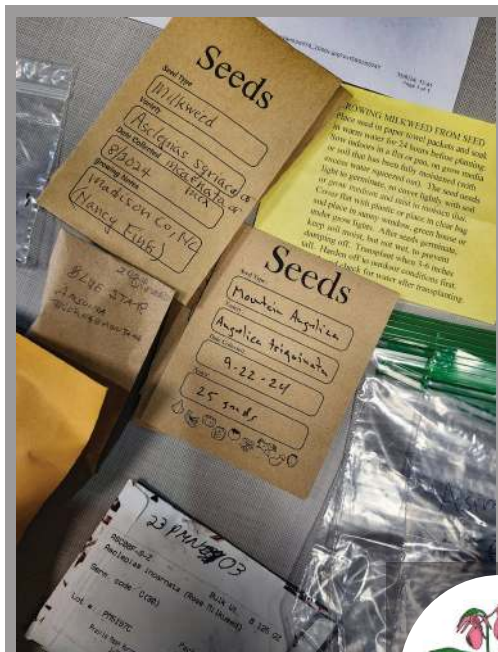


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Native plants are the backbone of local ecosystems. They support a diverse array of pollinators and other wildlife, require less watering and maintenance, and help preserve the unique character of our region. Most butterflies, moths, and other insects require plants that are native to the local region, and cannot reproduce effectively without them. Native plants grown in home gardens support and enhance biodiversity. Further, they reduce maintenance as they are naturally suited to the local growing conditions. Once established, they generally require no watering or supplemental fertilizers. They also never need applications of pesticides, which kill not just pests but also butterflies and other insects, making them a sustainable choice for any homeowner.

While sharing seeds among participants, our goal is to build connections and highlight the benefits of native species for gardens and wild spaces alike. Club members are eager to share practical tips for starting seeds, soil preparation, and garden planning to enhance beauty through all four seasons.

We'll help newcomers learn how to choose species best suited to their yards, particularly those interested in attracting hummingbirds, bees, butterflies, and other wildlife. The seed swap also gives established gardeners an opportunity to share stories, swap advice, and deepen relationships built through shared interests. Attendees often remark that the

real draw is not just the exchange of seeds, but the sense of belonging and purpose. It's about being part of something larger, and helping each other restore local habitats one yard at a time.

Visit NC NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY's website ncwildflower.org/land-of-the-sky-chapter for event details and registration.

Bring your curiosity, and leave with seeds for a beautiful, wildlife-friendly landscape—and naturally, a few new friendships too.

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