Lightning Talk

Expanding your Educational Impact

Haley Diem

Sand County Foundation

ROW HWG

MONARCH JOINT VENTURE

Pollinator Habitat Education Program

SEED STARTER ACTIVITY (K-12)

Receive FREE native wildflower seeds	Grow 100 seedlings with students
Winter Sowing or Greenhouse	Plant 100 sq ft Garden OR Community Giveaway

70 Schools
8,000 Students
2024-2025

POLLINATOR HABITAT GRANT (9-12)

Summer site preparation	Receive FREE native wildflower seeds	Grow 1,000 seedlings with students
Greenhouse or grow light growing	Award for project expenses	Stipend for lead teacher
Receive live native plants shipped direct	Plant 1,000 sq ft pollinator habitat	Maintain and report

103 Schools, 11,000 Students
2017-2024

WINTER SOWING

1 RECYCLE JUGS OR CONTAINERS
CLEAN, REMOVE CAP
KEEP CAP FOR LABELS!

ADD 1/4" HOLES TO BOTTOM OF JUG OR CONTAINER

1/4" HOLES

HOT GLUE GUN CAN MELT HOLES

2 SLICE JUG IN HALF

KEEP SOIL MOIST

SPRAY BOTTLE TO MIST JUGS IF THEY START TO DRY OUT

WINTER SOWING

POTTING SOIL

ADD WATER + MIX

4-5" OF SOIL

3

- VEGETABLE SEEDS
- NATIVE PLANT SEEDS GOOD FOR STRATIFICATION

4-5" OF SOIL SPACE

DAMP SOIL

SEEDS

4

ADD SEEDS, DON'T OVERSOW!
PLANT AT DEPTH LISTED ON SEED PACKET

ADD LABELS INSIDE

LEAVE OPEN

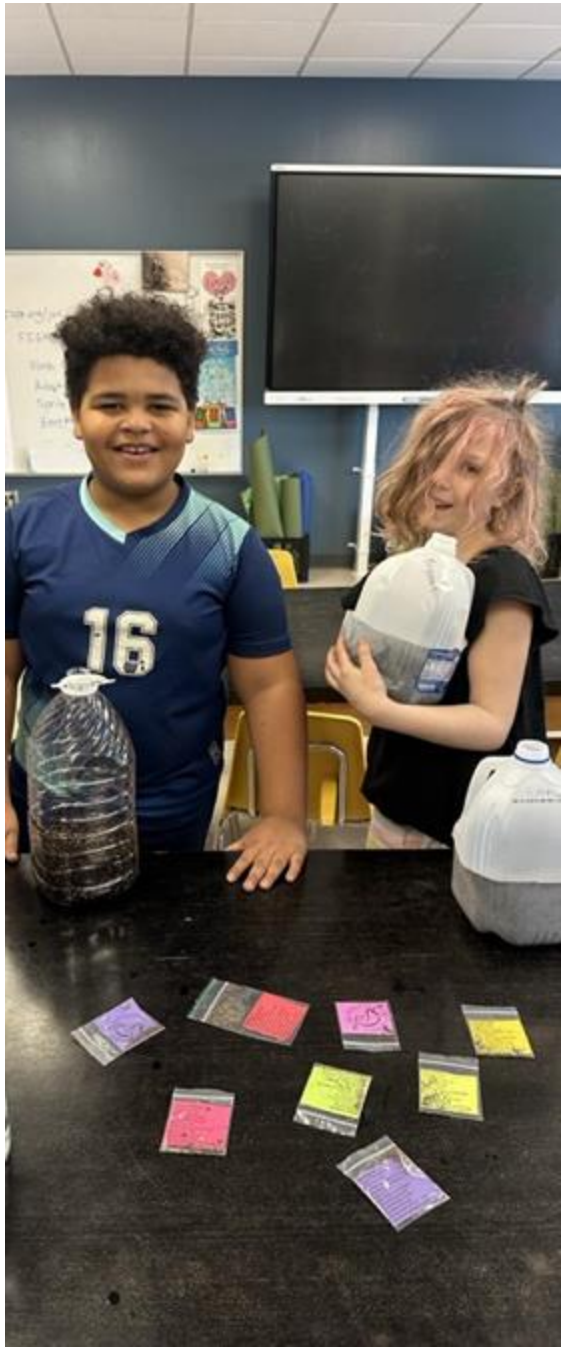
5 MINI GREENHOUSE
PUT IN FULL SUN OUTSIDE

TUCK TOP INTO BOTTOM OR USE DUCT TAPE

MAKE SURE TO HARDEN OFF!

6 OPEN IN SPRING TO HARDEN OFF SEEDLINGS FOR SEVERAL DAYS TO A WEEK. THEN GENTLY SEPARATE + TRANSPLANT IN GARDEN

PICKLEWIX.COM



Greenhouse Growing
native seeds (in the midwest)

STEP 1 JANUARY — BEGIN STRATIFICATION

- add sterilized play sand or silica sand and native seeds to a plastic baggie
- add water and mix until it is a cookie dough consistency (not dripping wet)
- label with species and date

STEP 2 FEBRUARY — COLD STORAGE

FEB

- immediately after step one, place seeds into cold storage for at least 30 DAYS to break dormancy (35°F - 40°F)
- refridgerator or unheated garage will work

STEP 3 MARCH — GERMINATE

- add premoistened soil to a tray with drainage holes, nested in a tray without holes
- lightly tamp down
- pull seeds out of storage, and sprinkle mixture evenly over the surface
- sprinkle a small amount of soil over the seeds (no more than the width of the seed!)
- place in a sunny, warm location and keep MOIST (not waterlogged) until they sprout. Water gently

STEP 4 APRIL — UPSHIFT

- once the first set of true leaves appear, gently seperate seedlings

TRUE LEAVES
COTYLEDON

- fill a pot with premoistened soil, make a hole, put 1 seedling in, and gently tuck in. Label, place in a tray, water gently. REPEAT!
- Continue greenhouse care for 2+ weeks

STEP 5 MAY — TRANSPLANT

- once the danger of frost has passed, place seedlings outdoors for a few days to 'harden off'
- outside, in a weed-free spot, dig a hole deeper + wider than the pot
- squeeze the pot, tip upside down, and gently remove the seedling
- place in the hole, tuck in, water, and REPEAT
- plant species in groups of 3-5 so pollinators can see them, 1 ft. spacing

- **75 % of teachers reported an increase in confidence** & and an increase in **skills and knowledge** in growing native species with students

- **Over 7,000 seedlings were successfully grown,** about ⅓ given away to students & community, and ⅔ planted directly into habitat

- **100% of teachers** would do the project again**!**