**Plowshares & Prairie Farm**

**Instructions for Planting Native Prairie Plants**

While prairie plants take a little longer to grow and establish than many domesticated varieties of plants, once established, they are durable, drought resistant, long lasting and reliable flowering and ornamental plants that are adapted for, and native to, our area.

We harvest as many seeds as possible from our farm to grow our plants and supplement those with seeds from local nurseries specializing in native plants. While most prairie plants won’t flower the first year, some will, especially if planted in ideal conditions and cared for properly.

If you give your prairie plants adequate water and sun and reduce competition with weeds for the first year (and in some cases two years for more delicate plants), you will be rewarded with beautiful flowers for years to come without much maintenance. Many prairie plants will expand and reproduce on their own, dropping seeds that germinate or sending out shoots from the original plant. Initial establishment is crucial, however; because prairie plants haven’t been bred for domestic purposes, they take time to establish.

**Upon bringing your plants home:**

Make sure they have adequate water. It’s ok if the top of the pot dries out, but don’t let the pot dry out completely. These plants like to be soaked periodically instead of watered lightly and frequently. Soaking also promotes better root growth.

The sooner you get your plants in the ground, the better. Once planted, water thoroughly to improve soil contact with the roots. Initially, they will be more susceptible to drying out, but after a couple weeks plants will start to establish new roots. Keep them well watered; if they look wilted, give them a good soaking. Keep a close eye on plants in full sun in the first couple weeks as they get established.

Other than occasional weeding, there isn’t much more you need to do. Your prairie plants need water and sunlight and they’ll do the rest!

**Code on Labels:**

S: Full Sun

PS: Partial Sun

L: Low Sun/Shade

W: Wetter area

M: Medium amount of moisture

D: Drier area

Enjoy your plants! Check our website for more information: www.plowsharesandprairie.com