

## Full Sun-Dry Native Perennial Garden Kit

*For garden areas with 6+ hours of sun per day; soil may go dry during dry periods, but never saturated for long periods.*



### **Prairie Alumroot** *Heuchera richardsonii*

*Height: 18" – 24"* slender flower stems 2' - 3', leaves in basal rosette in mound shape up to 1'

*Spacing at planting: 12" – 18"*

*Flower period: June – July.* Inconspicuous, small, yellow-green flowers on slender stems.

*Seed collection: July.* Seed is small, in small brown capsules.

Ready to collect once capsules are dry. Best sown immediately.

Seeds are tiny and they need light to germinate.

*Propagation:* Prairie Alumroot does not spread by rhizomes. It grows in a discreet clump which will grow wider over time, but not more than slightly over 1 foot. It does not self-seed readily in the home garden. It can be divided every 3 years to help keep the plants vigorous. Dig the plant out of the ground and cut the root mass into pieces with a sharp spade or knife. Replant divisions with the crown at the soil level.

*Notes on care:* It is an attractive, neat and tidy, border plant that stays green all season. Older leaves turn orange bronze in fall. It is not a spreader. A very polite plant. Less fussy than the many *Heuchera* cultivars, bred for their unusual maroon or orange leaf colors. Tolerates partial shade.



### **Nodding Wild Onion** *Allium cernuum*

*Height: 12" – 18"*

*Spacing at planting: 8" – 12"*

*Flower period: June – Sept.* A ball of star-like flowers forms on each stem, tending to bend downward; hence the name "nodding" onion. The nodding habit may also protect the nectar from rain. Flowers are lavender, pink or sometimes white.

*Seed collection: Oct.* After the flowers fade, a very decorative seed head remains. Spherical crested "fruits" later split open to

release the small black seeds once they are ripe.

*Propagation:* Seeds need at least 60 days of cold, moist stratification. Best sown in fall. If your area is not ready in fall, seed can be stratified in a zip lock bag mixed in damp sand and kept in the refrigerator for at least 60 days before sowing. Sow before May 1 for best result. Nodding wild onion will spread gradually under suitable conditions by seed and by bulb offshoots.

Clumps can be divided and transplanted to new areas in the garden or shared with a fellow gardener.

*Notes on care:* Like all alliums, it is deer and rabbit resistant. But it is delicious for humans, like chives. Plants remain green all season, into fall. This plant is a neat and attractive border plant. Needs well-drained soil and does not do well if soil remains wet for long periods.



**Purple coneflower** *Echinacea purpurea*

*Height:* 3' – 4'

*Space at planting:* 18" – 24"

*Flower period:* June – Aug. Pink-rose flowers. Bees, butterflies and beetles are pollinators

*Seed collection:* Oct – Nov. Because this plant continues to put out new flowers for several months, seed collection is staggered as seed heads mature. Seed heads turn black-brown and are very spiky; gloves recommended to handle.

*Propagation:* Seeds need at least 90 days of cold, moist stratification. Best sown in fall. If ground is not ready for seeds in fall, seeds must be stratified in the refrigerator. At least 90 days before intended planting date, mix seed with damp sand in a zip lock bag, keep in the refrigerator and turn the bag from time to time. Sow by May 1 at the latest for best result. Plants can be dug in early spring and divided with a sharp spade. *Echinacea* also readily self-seeds in the garden, but never aggressively. It is a welcome presence in the garden and fun to share with other gardeners.

*Notes on care:* Some plants stems die back early before others, and will need to be cut back if you want a “clean look.” Cutting off earlier seed heads will promote a longer bloom period. Be sure to leave lots of seed heads for the American goldfinches in your yard! Old stems are woody and rigid, and seed heads are spiky and full of seeds. If you do not have a long-term, slow rot pile in your yard, you may want to send old stems and seed heads to the municipal compost center.