



Mother's Day Weekend Native Plant Sale FAQ's

Q: What is the format for the plant sale this year?

A: Because of COVID concerns, the plant sale is again a pre-order pick up sale. It moves back to its traditional Mother's Day weekend timing but will have an additional later pick up date in June.

Q: Why two pick up dates?

A: Last year's COVID restrictions caused FOW to delay the plant sale until June and switch to "take-out" format. The June date allowed us to have plants that we have not been able to get in the past because they had not emerged from dormancy yet. Our milkweed plant deliveries especially increased, to the benefit of monarchs and those of us working to support them. Last year's later date, meant that most of the spring ephemerals missed prime selling time. To provide the best variety for our customers, FOW decided to have two pick up dates. One for earlier spring plants and one for the warmer weather plants.

Q: Why is there a new plant sale form?

A: New plants have become available. Some plants increased more in cost and we could not continue to hold the same broad customer pricing with a wider range in FOW costs. Pots and plugs on the same line were confusing many who ordered, so we split them apart.

Q: What are this year's new plants?

A: Royal Catchfly is a great pollinator plant that adds red to the native garden without needing a wet area for Cardinal Flower. With climate change, its range has expanded more into our area.

Bebb's Sedge and Prairie Sedge help add more texture and support to the flowers in native plant gardens.

Smooth Mountain Mint (gallon size only) is a great pollinator plant.

Q: What does “Specialty Plant” mean?

A: “Specialty” is a term we chose to help differentiate a category of plants that had a larger increase in cost. We did not want to increase our prices for all of the plants because of higher costs for just a few plants. These plants are more challenging to germinate and keep alive during their early life and you will have better success with older plants. Plants that are cared for longer naturally cost more. Also, growers typically limit the supply of these plants that require more effort to grow.

Q: Why did costs increase this year?

A: Not only did COVID change our daily lives but it impacted plant growers in a variety of ways. Everyone staying home created more gardeners and demand for plants of all kinds increased. “Wild gardening” and growing wildlife ecosystems in our own yards are top garden trends with growing interest. Increased demands led to shortages and increased costs. Growers had to change practices to keep their workers safe. Utilities and supplies increased in cost. All of these things combined lead to higher costs per plant. FOW wanted to keep prices down as much as possible so we had to split apart into more categories.

Q: What are plugs?

A: Plugs are young plants, often only a year old. Perennials have to be several years old before they flower, so plugs will not flower for several years. Plugs often do better in the long run because they do not have the added disruption of transplanting just before or during flowering.

Plugs are individual plants sold in trays of 16 rather than individual pots.